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THURSDAY APRIL 6TH, 2017



First Minister's extension call on biomass consultation

Protesters gathered
outside Barry's
Memorial Hall.
IMAGE by DAVID
ALEXANDER

THE First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones AM, has called on Natural Resources Wales to extend the deadline for the consultation on the permit for the biomass plant at Barry docks.

Mr Jones wrote to Natural Resources Wales on Tuesday, April 4, this week.

He said: "At a recent 'Carwyn Connect' event I held in Barry, local residents raised their concerns regarding an application for an environmental permit made by Biomass UK No. 2, to operate a renewable energy facility in Barry."

"I understand the current determination date for the permit application is May 8, 2017. Many residents



expressed their views that the consultation timeline was not sufficient... One protester told The GEM: "Inside, he faced some very taxing questions on the incinerator particularly from Barry resident and protester Alexis Liasatos."

Among other issues raised in the meeting were the difficulties in getting appointments with doctors and the education provision for autistic children.

It appears Mr Jones side-stepped the protest

CONTINUED
ON PAGE 3



GlastonBARRY'S 'Big Top' tribute selling out fast

GLASTONBARRY, the town's nationally famous tribute festival, will have a 4,000 capacity 'big top arena' this July, writes TIM CHAPMAN.

People travel from as far away as America, New Zealand and parts of Europe to sample the wonderful atmosphere at one of the UK's most

popular rock shows.

This year's event takes place at Romilly Park on Saturday, July 29 and Sunday, July 30.

Ross Mackintosh of Mack Events told The GEM: "After announcing the line up for GlastonBARRY Tribute Festival only last month, we have amazingly sold out of the VIP tickets."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

The library in Dinas Powys welcomed year-4 pupils recently to encourage youth membership – for full story, see page 4.

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NSPCC CAMPAIGN PROTECTS CHILDREN

IT'S taken two years, but from April 3 the UK Government is finally enforcing a much-needed law that will make it illegal for adults to send sexual messages to children.

Incredibly, before this law was put into place, police couldn't arrest adults who groomed young people in Wales and England in this way and could only take action if they met a child.

Our NSPCC 'Flaw in the Law' campaign demanding this change gained widespread support when it was launched with more than 50,000 people calling for action. The Government passed the anti-grooming law in 2015, but it inexplicably sat on the statute books for two years without being enacted.

After continuous campaigning from all our supporters, the Secretary of State for

Justice, Elizabeth Truss, has finally taken action and the flawed law is set to be fixed.

From April 3, any adult caught breaking the law will face up to two years in prison and be automatically placed on the sex offenders' register. The law will cover both online and offline communication, including social media, e-mail, and letters.

I'd like to take this opportunity to offer a big thank you to everyone who supported our 'Flaw in the Law' campaign over the last few years.

Your commitment and dedication has closed a legal loophole and helped protect a future generation of children from harm.

We know that the fight for safer childhoods is not over, but measures like these make a huge difference in our bid to protect children from all forms of abuse.

Des Mannion,
Head of NSPCC
Cymru/Wales

Time to economise on the use of paper

We are being constantly warned of cutbacks, so why do the Vale Council and governments waste so much paper?

My wife and I recently received separately addressed two-page letters from both the Vale Council and from the Pension Service.

In all four cases, the information on the second page occupied less than half the sheet, so could easily have been printed on the back of the main sheet.

Looking back, I remember this has been the case over the several years we have dealt with these services; so, multiplying the amount by the huge number of people to whom these services have been written, the amount saved could go so far to ease the shortages about which councils and government departments are complaining.

(Name and address supplied)

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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

CONCERNS FOR RESIDENTS NEAR THE DOCK AREA

I READ with interest the article in The GEM on March 30 in which the Vale Leader gave his views and advice on the imminent decision for a permit to allow the incinerator to begin operations on the docks.

Government support needed for autism charity

IT was announced last week that there will be an extra £7m of support given to increase Wales' autism services.

While I welcome more money for autism, I would be keen for some of it to be used to support an autism charity in Cardiff where I regularly attend, called Autism Spectrum Connections Cymru. I recently wrote to Rebecca Evans, Welsh Government Minister for Social Services and Public Health, to consider my proposal for providing funding to this charity.

Autism Spectrum Connections Cymru is a specialist centre that provides an open drop-in service for individuals living with autism in Cardiff and the surrounding area.

This drop-in service is unique, because it provides the facility for individuals living with autism to seek daily advice on issues that occur in every day life.

It provides the service users with post diagnostic support, employment workshops, work related support, one-to-one support,

social groups for those who seek new friendships as well as many more issues.

This service is invaluable. It has become a very important part of my life and for many others who also regularly use the service.

The Welsh Government replied to me and I received what was, in my opinion, a very generic response which only raised further questions. As a result, I've launched an online petition calling for the Welsh Government to give funding to this charity.

We wish to seek reassurance that this charity will always remain open and fully funded, which is the key message in this petition. This petition already has over 100 signatures.

The petition can be found at https://www.change.org/p/welsh-assembly-government-demand-funding-from-the-welsh-government-to-support-autism-spectrum-connections-cymru?recruiter=377511476&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=share_for_starters_page&utm_term=des-lg-no_src-no_msg.
Aled Thomas,
Penarth.

I was left with a number of concerns that the Leader did not allay, including:

What is the possible impact on the future development of the docks area?

What is the possible impact on health issues in the town?

What is the possible impact on tourism? How will the town's economy be impacted if the east and middle of the docks is blighted?

How will employment prospects be impacted when other industries do not take up developments on the east and middle of the docks?

Will the only future development on the docks be similar polluting development?

Will house prices be adversely affected, especially on the west docks area and Dock View Road?

The town has been making good progress over the last few years on a limited budget to improve its standing, but surely by introducing this type of industry into the heart of the town the Vale has set back the town's prospects considerably and has shown a callous disregard for the health and well-being of our community.

Dennis Clarke, Vale of Glamorgan.

Boy racers endanger lives on Eglwys Brewis

WHAT has happened to Eglwys Brewis? Please report any boy racers on the estate, it's only a matter of time before a child is knocked down!

This was a lovely estate years ago, but not anymore. It's the same people who drive fast around the estate, and need to be reported to local police.

I was looking out the window on Friday and there was a man riding around on a loud motorbike with no helmet and a young child sitting in front of him, this went on for about an hour, no police to be seen!

One man drives into

the estate at such speed that I'm afraid what might happen if a child steps out.

We need speed ramps around this estate to stop the chosen few that spoil it for others.

The good residents of Eglwys Brewis should keep an eye out for the boy racers and the loud music that is played at all hours from cars. Take the registration number and report it to local police, you don't even have to give your name.

It's the only way these idiots are kept under control and all the decent people can benefit too! (Name and address supplied).

QUESTIONS OVER BIOMASS PLANT

"NO need for an Environmental Assessment", that was the answer from the Vale Council, as reported on BBC Wales Today – so our council are not interested in the environmental effects of the Biomass plant currently under construction on Barry Docks?

Why was that? Was it because the company told them it is 'clean technology'? Was it because of the cost of commissioning such an assessment?

Was it because we already suffer fallout from Dow and Aberthaw (power station and cement works) so we won't notice a little more? Or was it because

"it's only Barry"

I was at an extraordinary meeting of the Barry Town Council and it was evident that among the Labour town councillors present, there were some who also sit on the Vale Council – and who voted in favour of the Biomass plant.

The Town Council meeting voted unanimously in favour of setting a budget of £10,000 for the purposes of commissioning expert opinion in cases such as this, so in effect some councillors were voting against themselves!

I must commend the Town Council for finding the funds and having the courage to carry out work the Vale should have done.
Andy Griffiths
Independent candidate for Court Ward, Barry)

'Tank tracks better than Llandow road'

WHAT an excellent letter from Chris Coade (The GEM, March 23) with regard to the recycling centre at Llandow.

The road has deteriorated to such an extent that I have seen tank tracks on Salisbury Plain in better condition.

I went recently from Llantwit Major to the recycling centre in Sully – a round trip of 30 miles – to dispose of my excess rubbish, but necessary, if it is to be done properly and safely.

The plus side is that you can call into Morrisons in Barry on the way back for a coffee and doughnut. No doubt someone on the council will wake up to the problem someday.
David Satherley, Llantwit Major.

COUNCIL TAX BILLS INCREASE

LAST week, Labour councillors voted for yet another council tax rise in April, which will see residents' bills rising once again.

Since 2012, the Labour-run Vale of Glamorgan Council has cost the average Barry household £585 in cumulative council tax hikes.

If that wasn't bad enough, bus services remain in decline and we have yet to receive assurances from the council that they won't move towards monthly bin collections here, as they have in many other

Labour councils across Wales. Inflation has been at around zero per cent, so it's pretty hard to justify being forced to pay more every year.

We need a council that can achieve more for Barry residents without passing on the bill to the taxpayer. Five more years with Labour in charge would hit residents in the pocket.

If we are fortunate enough to be elected you can rest assured that we would join Conservative colleagues in fighting tooth and nail to keep council tax bills down!
Vincent Bailey and Leighton Rowlands,
Conservative candidates for Dyfan ward.

Balancing gripes on Britain's NHS

I write to express my gratitude for the care I received at the Princess of Wales Hospital last Saturday morning; it was excellent!

I hope this note may balance many of the 'gripes' that the press receive and publish! Thank you to the staff – I award five stars!
John A Morgan, St Athan.

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Penarth man (50) had 549 indecent images of children on home computer

MORE than 500 pornographic pictures of children, some as young as four, were discovered by police officers when they examined com-puters being used by a Penarth man, Cardiff Crown Court has heard, writes AJ SICLUNA.

David Parton (50) of Windsor Road, was said by Recorder Simon Mills to "have some sort of sexual fetish for spanking".

Parton, a man with no previous convictions, admitted three charges of possessing indecent pictures of children and one of distributing an indecent photograph.

Prosecutor David Pugh said that police went to Parton's home

on September 5 last year, where he lived with his wife. He showed officers that he had uploaded movies and pictures of children.

He was cautioned, and he made no reply. A number of computers were removed and examined and a total of 549 indecent images were found - 44 of category A, the most serious; 112 of category B and 397 of category C.

Parton later told the police: "I am looking at jail time."

He admitted that he had been viewing images for four or five years and had an interest in spanking. He said he had never wanted to actually participate in such activity and needed help.

Mr Pugh said Parton had been remanded in custody because there had been a danger of him self-harming.

Before mitigation by his

counsel, Kevin Seal, the Recorder said he had read a moving letter from Parton's wife.

Mr Seal said he had been in custody since March 7 and was the first to acknowledge he must be punished. He said his wife did not condone his behaviour in any way but she, an intelligent person, was prepared to support him.

The Recorder pointed out Parton had made admissions from the start, assisted the police, expressed remorse and pleaded guilty at the first opportunity.

He was jailed for 12 months, suspended for two years and ordered to carry out 100 hours unpaid work, be subject to a Sexual Harm Prevention Order for 10 years and to register as a sex offender for 10 years.

It was ordered that his computer equipment be forfeited.

IMAGES by DAVID ALEXANDER



The GlastonBARRY festival set to sell out!



Mack Events are getting the UK's top tribute bands to Barry, including eleven piece band - 'The Stevie Wonder Experience'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ross added: "We've also already sold thousands of 'early bird' weekend discount tickets. We are well on our way to a record sell-out."

He said people keen to attend shouldn't leave it until the last moment to get a ticket otherwise they might miss out.

Matt Blumberg, also of Mack Events, emphasised that the festival was more ambitious than ever.

"The great news is this year we have a huge 4,000 capacity circus big top arena to house everyone, so whatever the weather, everyone is covered."

"We have two stages - a main one and an outside stage as well, a



GlastonBARRY'S 'Big Top'.

huge selection of food vendors and of course a bar.

"One of the reasons why GlastonBARRY is so popular is how reasonably priced we are. We have done a lot of research and we

haven't come across anyone on the UK scene who can match what we are doing."

This year's line-up includes Prince tribute band - 'Purple Rain'; David Bowie tribute - 'Absolute Bowie';

Oasis tribute - 'Oasish'; UB40 tribute - 'Johnny2Bad'; ACDC tribute - 'ACDC UK'; Kings of Leon tribute - 'The Four Kicks'; The Jam tribute 'The Jamd'; Stereophonics tribute - 'Stereotronics'; Bryan Adams tribute - 'The Bryan Adams Effect'; The Verve tribute - 'Verve UK'; and a Ska tribute to be confirmed.

Back by popular demand from London's West End will be 'The Valli Boys', as well as some popular local cover bands and special guests.

For ticket information, go to www.glastonbarry.com; or call the Box Office at 01446 737339; tickets are also available at The Piccolo Bar, Barry Island.

Biomass protest



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Local AM Jane Hutt, who has encouraged residents to respond to the consultation, told The GEM: "I am pleased that the First Minister has called on NRW to extend the deadline for this consultation."

"I have supported residents every step of the way since the original application was proposed eight years ago - submitting objections to the multiple planning applications associated with this development."

Residents can contact NRW at: permittingconsultations@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk or can pick up documents from Barry Library"

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Dinas Powys Community Library welcomes a host of new members



St Andrews and Dinas Powys Primary School pupils, with library trustees Keith Hatton and Chris Franks, choosing their books.

DINAS POWYS Community Library has welcomed year-4 pupils – as part of the 'every child a library member' scheme.

Each year-4 pupil from St Andrews School and Dinas Powys Primary received a special library card, along with a bag for their library books. There was a question and answer session and the children made suggestions to improve what is on offer.

Chris Franks, chair of the library trust, explained: "The community library is now run by volunteers and is very keen to develop links across the community. The children

were very enthusiastic and were brimming with ideas.

"I would also like to thank everybody who supported our first big fundraiser. Emyr Wyn Jones, baritone, accompanied by Conal Bembridge Sayers on piano performed to a full house in the Parish Hall.

"Both are graduates of the Welsh College of Music and Drama. It was an outstanding evening with music including Vagabond, Der Gartnes, Bright is the Ring, Pan Ddaw's Nos, Some Enchanted Evening, Dafydd y Garren Wen and Captain Stratt.

"We were also grateful for support from Nisa Stores, Cardiff Road, Royal India and Head to Head."

Ramblers in the shadow of Beacons

EIGHT walkers joined Rachel from Penarth and District Ramblers for a walk starting in Beddau in glorious sunshine which remained all day.

Following quiet roads to the 17th century house known as Castellau with a picturesque duck pond directly opposite, fields and woodland tracks led them across the Nant Castellau and uphill to reach Tonyrefail Road.

Heading through marshy fields, a descent

through Tyla-Winder and a paddle across a stream led them uphill beside an old drystone wall onto forestry paths at Mynydd Gelliwlion with views over the Taff Valley.

Exiting onto open access land with stunning, but misty, views up to the peaks of the central Brecon Beacons, a descent over rough ground brought them to a quiet lane for lunch in warm sunshine on a farm wall, before a further descent to reach Treferig House, owned by the Bevan family and the centre of a flourishing

Quaker movement during the mid-1600s.

Following a path along the old railway line beside the Nant Muchudd led them to the early 17th century Treferig Isha, now a working farm but once a Quaker meeting house. Open fields led them back to the road for the journey back to their start point.

The following day, Mothering Sunday, five walkers were lured out to join Robin and Pepper in the Brecon Beacons National Park, beginning from the Storey Arms in sunshine but with a brisk wind reminding everyone it was still only March.

Heading steeply uphill from Pont yr Daf on the well-trodden path towards Corn Du, before deviating across rough ground to Y Gym below Pen y Fan, a tramp along the ridge led to a descent to Carno Wood for a sheltered morning coffee.

Pathways through the National Trust woodland full of spring birdsong led out onto the Taff Trail, then across a footbridge over the Afon Tarell for a pleasant journey upstream through the pretty Tarell Valley for lunch in warm sunshine.

The major climb of the day was by field up to the A470 and through the lovely cwm below the craggy cliffs, leading them to the top of Craig Cerrig-Gleisiad with stunning views of Pen y Fan and Corn Du, still with a dusting of snow on their peaks.

Heading around the contours of the hillside below Rhos Dringarth led them back down to the Storey Arms for the journey home.

To follow the group please log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com or Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Suspended sentence for Barry man who sold cannabis to his friends

A DRUG dealer has been jailed for eight months, the sentence suspended for two years at Cardiff Crown Court.

by AJ SICLUNA

Magistrates for supplying cannabis and possessing the drug with intent.

Prosecutor David Pugh said that it was accepted that Temple Heald's basis of plea was that he sold only to close friends and associates to supplement his own habit and that he was not involved in a commercial enterprise.

The police went to the defendant's home on an unrelated matter last October and discovered "a strong smell of cannabis" coming from

the defendant.

A quantity of drugs was found, scales, plastic bags and £80 in cash and on his mobile phone, texts relating to the supply of cannabis.

He was said to have convictions for 11 offences, including possessing cannabis with intent to supply, and obstructing the police.

His solicitor, Adam Sharp, said he supplied only a small group of close friends in street deals.

"It must be accepted there is a relevant previous conviction. He was a troubled teenager and was at times homeless."

Independent candidate stands in Rhoose Ward

SAMANTHA CAMPBELL is a local independent candidate standing in the forthcoming Rhoose Ward election.

Samantha said: "I was raised in Rhoose, I live in Rhoose and I am affected by the same issues as other local people."

"I understand that the new development is causing disruption on the roads, that residential parking is a problem and the local transport links are inadequate."

"These are just a few of the issues that need to be addressed within the local community, and I am the person to do that."

I will not be swayed by excuses and not

influenced by party politics.

"I believe local businesses and non-profit organisations should be supported and nurtured."

"There should also be more recreational areas for children."

"I intend to make sure that every voice within the village is

heard and to stand up for people's rights and voice their concerns. I welcome opinions from either side of every issue and will make sure every point is heard."

"Please do not hesitate to contact me either via email: sa_sullivan91@hotmail.com or through my Facebook profile."

Bowling club's open day

BARRY Central Bowling Club is holding an open day on Saturday, April 15 at 2pm at Gladstone Gardens, Buttrills Road, Barry, close to the Memorial Hall and opposite Gladstone School.

The club is open from April 16 every day through the summer from 11am to 5pm; all newcomers and beginners are welcome.

Qualified coaches will show beginners how to play – all you need to bring with you is a pair of flat shoes (no heels).

Interested? Contact club secretary Pat Widger on 01446 735260 or call in to the clubhouse.



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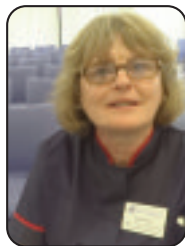
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Patients' book of poetry is dedicated to Barry-born Liz



Inspirational nurse Liz Baker.

RIGHT: At the *Loving Gratitude* launch are (from left) harpist Delyth Jenkins, ABMU arts in health coordinator Prue Thimbleby and poet Cheryl Beer



A BOOK of poems co-written by patients at Morriston Hospital has been dedicated to the memory of one of its creative forces.

Loving Gratitude is a collaboration between patients in the hospital's renal unit, an inspirational nurse and award-winning poet and songwriter Cheryl Beer.

It came about as part of ABMU's arts in health programme, which looks to incorporate the arts into all health board services for the benefit of patients as well as visitors and staff.

Arts in health coordinator Prue Thimbleby teamed up with renal services lead nurse Liz Baker, who was born in Barry, to organise a project which would see Cheryl Beer work with patients having dialysis at Morriston Hospital.

Cheryl visited 56 patients over an eight-month period during their treatment.

Prue said: "She sat down to chat with patients, then took snippets of what they said and read it back to them as poetry. The patients didn't actually put pen to paper. They talked to Cheryl and she took phrases and sentences so it became a poem between them."

"Often when Cheryl read the poem back to the patient they said things like 'that's exactly right - you have captured it perfectly'. It is effective because it is a shared writing process."

During the project a theme began to emerge - the overwhelming gratitude of patients towards their family and carers, to the medical teams, to having access to treatment and, ultimately, the gift of life.

Sadly, Liz Baker passed away last month after a short illness, just weeks before *Loving Gratitude's* official launch at Morriston

Hospital. Liz was a nurse for 38 years, 32 of them spent at Morriston Hospital. During this time she established and built up the network of renal services across south west Wales.

More recently, she led on the modernisation of facilities for renal patients in Morriston Hospital. She also helped develop an MSc syllabus at Cardiff University.

"The anthology, subtitled *The Poetics of Renal Dialysis*, is dedicated to Liz's memory."

Her family and friends were invited to the launch.

Liz's sister Angela Baker said: "This wonderful book of poetry is a fitting tribute to our dear sister Liz, who dedicated her life to the care of her patients."

Copies of the book are available from Prue (Prue.Thimbleby@wales.nhs.uk) for £3, with proceeds supporting future arts projects for renal patients.

Deadline looms for objections to biomass scheme

VALE AM Jane Hutt is submitting objections to the environmental permit application by Biomass UK No 2 Ltd for the energy plant at Barry Docks. The deadline for objections is May 8.

The AM has submitted many objections since the scheme was first proposed eight years ago and in response to concerns raised by local residents, she recently chaired a public meeting in Castleland Community Centre and invited Natural Resources Wales (the permitting authority) to answer questions from the public.

These questions covered a wide variety of issues such as pollution, planning process and risk fears.

Ms Hutt said: "I have supported residents

every step of the way since the original application was proposed eight years ago - submitting objections to the multiple planning applications associated with this development."

"I recently chaired a public meeting on this issue and arranged for NRW to attend in order to directly answer the many questions that the public rightly have about this development."

"I have made the minutes from this meeting available on my website and facebook page."

"Following my meeting, I arranged for copies of the environmental permit application consultation to be available at Barry Library."

"Residents can also contact NRW at permittingconsultations@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk."

500 people sign petition Vale Council agrees to an investigation into traffic on Barry Road

A PETITION organised by a Barry councillor to improve road safety on Barry Road has been accepted by the Vale Council.

Coun Richard Bertin organised the petition following concerns raised with him about road safety in the Witchell area of the town. It called for improved signage, the provision of a crossing outside the post office and speed monitoring in the area.

Local councillor Richard Bertin said: "Having listened to the concerns of local residents I decided enough was enough and something had to be done."

"Around 500 people

eventually signed the petition over a two week period - more wanted to sign it but the petition had to be handed into the full council meeting at that time."

He added: "I am pleased to report that after presenting the petition to the Mayor, the council are now going to look at doing something."

"As a consequence of the petition, I am pleased to report that the council has agreed to carry out a comprehensive traffic management investigation of Barry Road."

"However, due to the scale of the investigatory work that the Highways department are to carry out, they cannot give a time frame for completion but promise to keep locals informed."



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John Moore (CJCH Solicitors), David Williams (head of PE), John Moyle (CJCH Solicitors) and David Manley with the squad in their new kit.

Local companies help kit out Barry Comprehensive sports squad for Catalanian tour

BARRY Comprehensive School's under-14 rugby squad has received receive its tour kit as the teams prepare for their trip to Barcelona.

The squad of 35 boys left for Spain on April 5, and will really look the part on their challenging tour reported a spokesperson. Barry solicitors CJCH have provided the team with T-shirts and hoodies, while Merthyr-based Hoover Limited made a large contribution towards the jerseys.

The group have also been given a set of polo shirts to wear to certain events by South Wales Monuments of Caerphilly.

While in Spain the A and B squads will each play two matches against local opposition, as well as playing in the Girona regional tournament and even on their rest day will take on local opposition in a football match.

Tour organiser Mr Manley said: "The level of support we have received is incredible, CJCH Solicitors have supported us throughout our planning and are always pleased to help us, I can't thank them enough."

"Hoover, who are from 30 miles away and South Wales Monuments from Caerphilly have also helped us considerably and the fact they are not really from our area makes their donations very special."

Mr Manley added: "When you are taking a group of this size away it becomes very expensive and without the help and support of these fantastic companies the cost to parents would become impossible to meet. The boys can't wait for the tour and I just want to thank everyone for their kind support."



John Moyle, CJCH Solicitors, presenting Mr Manley with the new tour kit.

National award for apprentice

AN apprentice from Barry trained by Bridgend recruitment and training company, JGR, has won a national award.

One of JGR's most successful apprentices, Josie Smith, was among 16 apprentices working in Wales to have their hard work and dedication celebrated at the Quality Skills Alliance Annual Awards, which recognises the best apprentices in the region.

Employers and practitioners who have gone that extra mile in their commitment to work-based learning were also recognised at the ceremony, held in the Cardiff and Vale College's City Centre Campus.

The winners were chosen by a panel comprising the QSA's chair, CAVC chief executive Kay Martin, and board.

Josie is currently a PA/medical secretary for Cardiff Sports Orthopaedics based at Spire Cardiff Hospital.

The 24-year-old, who recently featured in JGR's National Apprenticeship Week campaign, won the



Josie Smith (right) with her Management Apprentice of the Year award.

Management Apprentice of the Year award.

Josie said: "I was 17, had just done a medical secretary's course and JGR got me an apprenticeship with a GP surgery and I've progressed from there."

Trudy Perry, Josie's training assessor at JGR spotted her potential when she was a teenager: "I was introduced to Josie when she was a receptionist at West Quay Medical Centre."

"Without a doubt I could see Josie was a keen, friendly and determined young lady. Josie's aim was to

eventually progress into a managerial role in the years ahead.

"She fully understood the requirements and commitment she would need to attain this."

"She did not disappoint us, or herself. At every stage, she submitted evidence of a high standard to meet the qualifications criteria."

"With continuous contact, we have been able to encourage and support her to learn and gain more knowledge and experience."

"Josie is a credit to both JGR Training and her employers."

RNLI visitor centre opens at Barry Island



The RNLI visitor centre was officially opened on March 31.



A RACE against the clock to kit up in time for an emergency RNLI lifeboat launch... getting to grips with the second highest tidal range in the world... or finding out how lifeguards help a lost child find their family on the beach – just some of the things in store for the first guests through the doors at a new RNLI visitor centre dedicated specifically to keeping kids safer at the beach.

The RNLI's Barry Island Visitor Centre opened on March 31 giving guests a first glimpse at its range of interactive displays and activities aimed at keeping the public safe in and around local waters.

The RNLI hopes between 20,000 and 30,000 people will drop in throughout the summer.

The visitor centre, which is in the former tourist information centre on Paget Street above Whitmore Bay, is one of only two

RNLI visitor centres anywhere in the UK not at a lifeboat station and is the first 'prevention led visitor centre' specifically aiming to reduce drowning and incidents in or around the water.

Children will be able to see what it is like to be an RNLI lifeboat crew member by hopping into a D-class inshore lifeboat while hearing rescue stories from volunteers.

There are also games and displays aimed at teaching youngsters about the specific dangers of the waters around Barry Island, including a tide tank highlighting the huge tidal range of the Bristol Channel, which is second only in the world to the Bay of Fundy in Canada.

There are also 'spot-the-danger' games, where youngsters can identify rip currents and other sea hazards and a chance to kit up a lifeboat crew member quick enough to make a rescue launch.

Julie Sanby, RNLI visitor experience manager, said: "This was a hugely exciting day for the RNLI as this is the charity's first visitor centre anywhere in the UK

specifically dedicated to drowning prevention and keeping people safe in and around the waters of the local area.

"The RNLI's vision is to end preventable loss of life at sea and we hope the centre will build upon the safety education and drowning prevention work already being done in the area by Barry Dock Lifeboat station volunteers and our lifeguard teams.

"Many of the families who visit Whitmore Bay don't have a lot of coastal experience. We hope families who visit the centre will learn key safety tips and be better equipped to enjoy the area's beautiful coastline safely and know what to do if they do get into trouble."

The centre will be open every day throughout the summer, initially between 12 noon and 4pm and is free to enter. The building also has a meeting room that can be used by the local community.

RNLI lifeguards will be on duty at Whitmore Bay on Barry Island over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend, then every weekend from April 29 until May 27, when their summer daily safety service begins.

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Relatives could not pay for a funeral after carer stole from elderly man

A CARER who systematically stole more than £8,000 from two elderly men he was entrusted to look after has been jailed for 10 months at Cardiff Crown Court.

The grief-stricken relatives of one of the

victims were left devastated when they found they could not pay for his funeral after £6,600 had been taken from his bank account.

Richard Riordan (31) of Teilo's Drive, Brackla, Bridgend, admitted two charges of theft.

Prosecutor John Warren said Riordan

worked for Gabriel's Care of Barry and systematically stole money from two vulnerable clients.

One, Christopher Williams (78), who had a degree of palsy, speech difficulties and limited mobility, had a support worker who looked at his bank statements and saw that

by AJ SICLUNA

large amounts of cash had been taken from him.

The bank had also texted Mr Williams indicating that there had been suspicious transactions.

Enquiries were made and Riordan was suspended.

Mr Williams said that no-one had permission to take money.

It was believed, said Mr Warren, that Riordan had viewed and memorised Mr Williams' bank card PIN and this had been the catalyst for eight or nine transactions

involving a loss of £1,790.

Police made further enquiries which led them to Mr Brian Murray, who died last July aged 66.

"He was an amputee," said Mr Warren, "and used a wheelchair. Riordan was his principal carer and the two got on

extremely well."

In December 2015, Riordan offered to do his shopping and Mr Murray gave him his bank card.

The police later examined his bank account and found that Riordan had made a number of transactions resulting in the loss to Mr Murray of £6,621.

When Riordan was arrested, he admitted stealing from Mr Murray, but denied stealing from Mr Williams.

A victim's personal statement was made by Mr Murray's sister-in-law, Sharon Murray, on behalf of the family in which she said Mr Murray was a hardworking husband, father and brother.

As his wife died from cancer at just 41, his health deteriorated and his family put a care plan in place for him. Later, she said, he took an overdose and never recovered.

She said that because of the "pure greed" of Riordan, the family didn't even have the money for a funeral.

Riordan did not tell the police how he had used the cash.

The Recorder, Simon Miller, assured the family that they should feel no guilt concerning Mr Murray, and said they had in no way done anything wrong.

Riordan was said to have a previous conviction of battery and theft concerning when he was working at Cardiff Airport in May 2015 and was spotted on CCTV pocketing cash.

His counsel, Owen Williams, said: "It is accepted there was a high gross degree of breach of trust, and he has realised he caused harm to the victims and their families."

He said that having read the evidence, Riordan realised the extent of his wrongdoing.

"He is motivated to change and better himself," said Mr Williams.

The Recorder pointed out Mr Riordan's behaviour had harmed both families and that only immediate custodial sentence could be passed.

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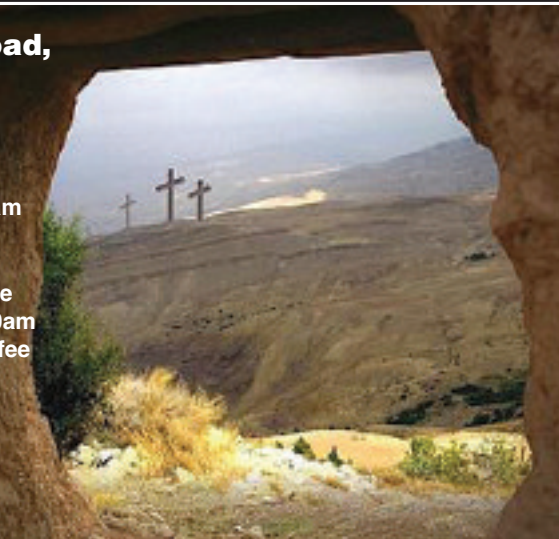
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Lunches raise funds

DURING March a series of Lent lunches were held at All Saints' Church, Barry.

The first four weeks raised £1,020 for church funds. It was decided that an extra week would be arranged and any money raised would be sent to the East Africa famine appeal.

The extra week raised £550, which included donations from those who could not attend as well as the special raffle. This money is to be sent via Christian Aid to the DEC appeal for the drought/famine areas in East Africa.

Many, many thanks to all those who supported the lunches. We hope to be back in November.

**Report by Jen Morgan
on behalf of the Soup
Ladies.**

Easter Family fun day

CADOXTON Youth Project and team invite the public to attend this event in Victoria Park, Barry on April 15 between 11am and 4pm.

There will be a kids' competition (with prizes), face painting and much more on offer.

All children under 15 years must be accompanied by their parents/guardians or responsible carer.

Youth service honoured for improving lives of young people



Members of the Vale Council collect their Bronze Quality Mark.

THE Vale Council Youth Service was recently awarded the Bronze Quality Mark for youth work – one of the first local

authorities in Wales to receive the honour.

The presentation took place at the Angel Hotel in Cardiff after a conference opened by Alun Davies, Minister

for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language.

At the end of the conference, Sally Holland, Children's Commissioner for Wales, handed Vale Youth Service its prize.

Paula Ham, Vale of Glamorgan Council director of learning and skills, said: "I am so pleased that the hard work, positivity and commitment of the youth service to improving outcomes for young people has been formally recognised."

COFFEE AND BOOKS!
MEGA book sale and coffee morning on April 8 from 10.30am – 1pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Woodland Place, Penarth.

A spokesperson said: "Good quality secondhand books of almost every genre will be on sale along with refreshments, baked goods and a raffle."

"All profits go to Penarth singer-songwriter Martyn Joseph's charity – the Let Yourself Trust – which does work both in the UK and all over the world. The book sale is free to enter and everyone is welcome, so do come along and join us."

Introduction of postal bowel cancer test kit 'proves popular'

ACCORDING to research, 56 per cent of people living in the Vale sent a cancer screening test in the post actually complete it: that's four in 10 Vale residents whose lives may be at risk.

Bowel Cancer UK, a cancer research charity, is encouraging people living in the Vale to take part in the screening programme as part of Bowel Cancer Awareness Month in this month.

It is estimated that in April alone in Wales, nearly 191 people will be diagnosed with bowel cancer and 82 people will die of the disease. However, bowel cancer is treatable and curable, especially if diagnosed early.

Uptake rates for bowel cancer screening are low with variations across Wales. The bottom five areas that need to see the

most improvement are Wrexham (49 per cent), Cardiff (50 per cent), Blaenau Gwent (51 per cent), Merthyr Tydfil (51 per cent), and Newport (52 per cent).

The top five areas with the highest uptake are Monmouthshire (58 per cent), Isle of Anglesey (57 per cent), Gwynedd (57 per cent), the Vale (56 per cent) and Bridgend (56 per cent).

Bowel Screening Wales can detect bowel cancer at an early stage in people with no symptoms, when it is easier to treat and a greater chance of survival. People registered with a GP and aged 60-74 will receive a test in the post every two years.

Recipients carry out the simple test at home in private and it comes with step-by-step instructions.

To find out more about bowel cancer and screening, visit: bowelcanceruk.org.uk.

For the latest news and sports stories from your area, visit www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk each day.

Muddy good fun with the Vale Ramblers!

TWENTY members joined the leader, Ian Fraser on the eight-mile Rhymney Valley Ridgeway walk.

Starting at Bedwas, we walked along the ridge enjoying the clear views across the valley towards Caerphilly, its castle majestically prominent and proud. Walking in a clockwise direction, we joined the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway at Mynydd y Grug, which was very boggy and wet, although it seemed perfect for the many

scramble bike riders who were also using the route.

It was very slippery in places and large puddles which were avoided rather gracefully by most, but not by one member who enjoyed a mud bath as he slipped on the mud and into a very dirty puddle, not once but twice.

Thankfully, a resourceful passer-by had kitchen roll in the back of their vehicle which they gladly shared to help with the clean up.

As we started to descend, the Sirhowy Valley was below us and the villages of Wattsville and Cwmfelinfach in the distance were enjoying the midday sunshine; the view we had as we enjoyed our lunch stop was across to the other side of the valley where there seems to be quite a lot of deforestation

taking place. As we continued on our way, we were able to enjoy the panoramic views that opened up around every corner: in the distance we could clearly make out Corn Du and Pen y Fan, and as we continued we could see the Bristol Channel on the horizon glistening in the afternoon sunshine.

It was a perfect walking day, and a very enjoyable walk. Thanks to Ian for leading the walk.

From Bedwas at the end of the walk we made our way to Toby Inn, Crossways for a well earned post-walk drink. Further information is available at www.valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk, or follow us on Twitter or Facebook.

GWENDA FITZPATRICK

Passover meal in Sully

SULLY Community Church is arranging a Passover meal on Saturday, April 22 at 6.30pm at The Old School, South Road Sully.

There is no charge; there will also be teaching (Exodus 12 v 26).

To book your place, contact Doug on 02920 530816 Hilary on 02920 531181 or email marian.harris@tiscali.co.uk if you would like to attend.

PACT meetings

GIBBONSDOWN PACT at Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close, Barry, every Monday between 10am and 12 noon.

COURT PACT at the Witchill Community Centre, Dyfan Road, Barry, on Thursday, April 13 at 6.30pm.

CASTLELAND PACT at Morrisons supermarket on Saturday, April 15 at 10am.

CADOC PACT at Waitrose, Palmerston Road, Barry, on Tuesday, April 18 between 2pm and 4pm.

LLANDOW/EWENNY coffee and chat at the Carne Arms, Llyswoyney at 11am on Tuesday, April 18.

If you have any issues and are unable to attend a meeting, contact 101 for non emergencies or log onto: www.south-wales.police.uk.

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Local newspapers fuel property market activity

LOCAL newspapers are a catalyst for activity in the property market with local press readers far more likely than average to be considering buying or selling property in the next year, according to independent data.

The chief executive of NAEA Propertymark, the National Association of Estate Agents, said that local newspapers will remain a "key platform" for estate agents for many years to come, because they are so effective.

According to TGI, local press is a particularly effective catalyst for young first time buyers with local press readers in their 20s or 30s – millennials – 160 per cent more likely than average to be expecting to purchase their first home in the next 12 months.

Older local press readers are also far more likely than average to be active in

the property market. Local press readers aged in their 30s, 40s or 50s – Generation X – are 74 per cent more likely than average to be expecting to sell or purchase a house or flat in the next 12 months.

According to Consumer Catalyst, local media – local newspapers and their websites – are the most popular source for keeping an eye on the property market with 56 per cent of people citing estate agent ads in local media as their source compared to 37 per cent, the next highest, who cited property websites such as Rightmove or Zoopla.

Local media drives people to take action – 29 per cent of people looked at a property in more detail online after seeing an ad or article in local media.

Mark Hayward, chief executive, NAEA Propertymark, said: "Local newspapers, both print and digital, are an essential platform for estate agents to communicate with the marketplace. They

are highly trusted and, therefore, estate agents rightly see them as effective outlets through which to advertise both properties and the wider services they offer.

"This is important for estate agents who, like local papers, are a part of the communities they serve.

The media landscape is changing but local newspapers will remain a key platform for estate agents and will continue to have a central role to play in property marketing for many years to come."

Local press Gen X readers are 156 per cent more likely to have responded to a residential property classified ad while local press millennial readers are 171 per cent more likely to have responded to a residential property classified ad, and are 121 per cent more likely to have placed one, according to TGI.

British Legion recruits nurses to tackle dementia

THE Royal British Legion is recruiting more Admiral Nurses in Wales to provide additional support to families caring for a loved one with dementia.

Paula Smith, the Legion's Admiral Nurse national lead, said: "The commitment to recruiting new nurses to the Royal British Legion reflects the fact that there is a genuine need to provide more support for families living with dementia in Wales. This will have a really positive impact on the quality of care our

patients receive."

The Royal British Legion Admiral Nurses offer specialist support, information and advice to the carers of people with dementia.

The service has been developed in partnership with Dementia UK, the national charity that provides specialist dementia support for families through Admiral Nursing.

To qualify for support, the carer or the person with dementia needs to be a beneficiary of the Royal British Legion, which includes anyone who has served in the British Armed Forces, their family and their carers.

The Royal British Legion recognises that, with an aging population, there is a need for further investment in dementia care amongst the Armed

Forces community.

There are almost 200 Admiral Nurses in the UK working in a variety of care settings and they work on some of the most complex cases and provide expert one-to-one practical, clinical and emotional support.

Admiral Nurses are the specialists working in dementia care to focus on improving the physical, psychological and emotional wellbeing of both the carer and the person with dementia.

Paula Smith said: "I feel immensely proud to be an Admiral Nurse because, each day, I have an opportunity to make a real difference, whilst the support of the Royal British Legion and Dementia UK helps us to deliver care where it is most needed."

To apply, visit: www.britishlegion.org.uk/about-us/jobs/

Speaker's talk on the history of Dyffryn Gardens

THE chairman of Barry Men's Forum welcomed the return of the speaker, Gweryl Gardener, who talked about the local National Trust's newly acquired Dyffryn Estate house and gardens.

The earliest records are of a house at Dyffryn back in the 7th century, but the earliest history of residents she had been able to trace was in the 16th century, when Miles Button, an influential member of Queen Elizabeth I's retinue bought the estate.

One of his four sons, Sir Thomas Button, who was later knighted, followed a successful career in the Royal Navy, rising to the rank of Admiral, alongside the more famous Raleigh. The family supported the Royalists, lost their vast fortune, and had to sell up.

It was purchased by Thomas Pryce, an early iron master, who made his money largely by selling muskets. Due to a lack of heirs, the estate passed to the Rev Thomas Bruce, whose family is well recorded in the church at St Nicholas.

The more recent

occupants were the Cory family. They came from humble beginnings, with a sailing vessel trading around the coast.

Richard Cory recognised the developments taking place at Cardiff and moved his family from Bideford.

Setting up in Cardiff as a ships' chandler, his business quickly developed to shipping coal, before he was able to purchase coal mines.

The firm was then inherited by his two sons. It was John Cory who purchased Dyffryn in 1891, soon after his successful involvement with the development of Barry Docks.

Reginald Cory, his son, roamed the world as a 'plant hunter', bringing back many exotic species for the gardens, which remain for us to view to this day.

The next meeting is on April 13, when speaker Sally Mayle will talk about the Bayeux Tapestry.

New members are welcome at £2 per meeting, which includes light refreshments and starts at 10.15am at the Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, every Thursday morning.

For further information, contact chairman Mac Tanner on 01446 743455. PMW

Penarth Aviation Society
THE next meeting of the Penarth Aviation Society will be held on Friday, April 7 at 8pm in the Penarth Conservative Club.

The subject this month is 'The Up and Down History of VTOL development' when society member Mike Duxbury will reveal his findings on the progress of vertical take off and landing over the last century and possible future developments in this field.

Why not join the society? We meet on the first Friday of the month at the Penarth Conservative Club. See www.penarthaviationsociety.co.uk or contact secretary Barrie Howell on 02921 322385.

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trust and therefore **consumer response**, giving you **better value for money** alongside the peace of mind of a **safe** advertising placement.

Maintaining the **integrity** of our content and our advertising environment is fundamental to us, and local news brands have always scored extremely well for trust. This was validated by a recent Comscore survey of UK Internet users - people said they trusted content on local news sites almost three times more than they did on social media.

Today we publish our **online advertising charter** (available at ixl.co.uk/adcharter). The purpose of this is to ensure our advertisers are given the chance to see the standards and processes we work in in order to **guarantee** that they get the **transparency, trust and value** that we believe they deserve.

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VALE PUPILS DISCOVER THEIR VOICES



Eva Gillette, Y Bont Faen Primary, with Derek Morgan.



St Davids Colwinston's winning team.



Sophie Rogers of St Bride's



Audrey Pigued, from Peterston



Georgia Rees of Llangan Primary.

Gentle Jack loves walks and a curl-up



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The St Bride's team were runners-up.



Millie Smith of St Bride's.



Madison Clay of Llansannor.

MARCH 2017 saw the inauguration of a public speaking workshop and competition for year-6 pupils in Vale primary schools.

The initiative was led by the deputy headteacher of St Bride's Church in Wales Primary School, Catherine Jenkins, in partnership with the South Wales branch of the English Speaking Union, and it is hoped that it will become an annual event.

Seven primary schools competed, though more were represented at the

workshop on March 15, where the aim was to introduce the pupils to the skills they would need in the competition.

Ten pupils from each school took part in a range of activities. They were enthusiastic and confident, enjoyed the challenges and all went home with a medal to commemorate the event.

Teachers then had the unenviable task of choosing a team of three pupils to represent the school in the competition itself on March 25 at St Bride's Primary School.

Each school team had a chairperson, a speaker and a questioner, and

topics discussed ranged from 'Is watching TV a waste of time?' and 'Should children under 11 be allowed to use social networking sites?' to 'We think public transport should be free to all.'

The standard achieved was extremely high and the audience, including parents, grandparents, teachers and pupils, appreciated the preparation and energy that the teams had put into their performances.

The three judges, Katherine Kettle, Derek Morgan and Stephen Page, made the following decisions:

Highly Commended Speaker, Ella Gillette, Y Bont Faen; Highly Commended Speaker, Millie Smith, St Bride's; Highly Commended Speaker, Georgia Rees, Llangan;

Best Chairperson, Audrey Pigued, Peterston super Ely; Best Speaker, Madison Clay, Llansannor; Best Questioner, Sophie Rogers, St Bride's.

Runner-up team, St Bride's; chair, Eva Gough; speaker, Imogen John; Questioner, Sophie Rogers.

Winning team, St David's Church in Wales Primary School; Chair: Georgie Griffiths; Speaker: Danica Little; Questioner: Sam Sheppard.

All pupils received a certificate recording their success and the ESU Primary Public Speaking Trophy was presented to the team from St David's by Derek Morgan, chairperson of the branch and David Jenkins, treasurer.

The ESU is grateful to all the schools that supported this initiative. Particular thanks go to the headteacher and staff of St Bride's School for their hospitality at both the workshop and the competition itself.

For further information about the ESU locally, please contact the chairman, Derek Morgan on derekwmorgan@gmail.com.

GVS success with funding

GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS) has held four successful funding surgeries since the start of 2017 with major funding bodies in Wales.

Twenty-six groups have taken advantage of the opportunity to meet the Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund, Sport Wales and BBC Children

In Need to discuss projects that will benefit people and communities in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The funding surgeries are just one of the many services that GVS provides for groups serving the Vale.

You can find out more about these services and join GVS on our website at: www.gvs.wales.

Easter at Barry library!

EASTER activities at Barry library (places must be booked) are: Easter Bonnet crafts on Monday, April 10 from 2pm – 3pm for ages 4+. £1 charge.

Easter boxes on Tuesday, April 11 from 10.30am – 11.30am for ages 4+. £1 charge.

Code Club on April 11 from 3pm – 4pm for ages 9 – 11. Free.

Inventor's box workshop on Wednesday, April 12 from 10.30am – 12pm. For ages 3 – 8, 50p charge.

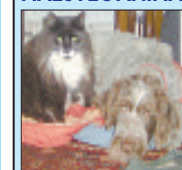
Film – *Rise of the Guardians* (PG) on Thursday, April 13 from 10.30am. Recommended age 7+.

Drop-in Easter Craft – decorating Easter eggs on Thursday, April 13 from 2pm – 3.30pm. All ages, free.

Easter Bonnet parade and egg hunt on Saturday, April 14 from 10.30am – 12pm. All ages!

For any of these activities call 01446 422425 to book your place.

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Tel: 01446 700111

email: visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Waste Less and Recycle more!



Please note the changes to your waste and recycling collection days, this Easter.

Normal Collection Day:	Will Now Be:
Friday 14th April	Saturday 15th April
Monday 17th April	Tuesday 18th April
Tuesday 18th April	Wednesday 19th April
Wednesday 19th April	Thursday 20th April
Thursday 20th April	Friday 21st April
Friday 21st April	Saturday 22nd April

The Waste and Recycling online calendars on the Council website have been amended to reflect these new collection dates.

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle

Beth sydd yn eich bin?

Ffôn: 01446 700111

e-bost: visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Gwastraffu Llai ac Ailgylchu mwyl!



Nodwch y newidiadau i'ch diwrnodau casglu gwastraff ac ailgylchu, y Pasg hwn.

Diwrnod Casglu Arferol:	Diwrnod Casglu Newydd:
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Dydd Llun 17 Ebrill	Dydd Mawrth 18 Ebrill
Dydd Mawrth 18 Ebrill	Dydd Mercher 19 Ebrill
Dydd Mercher 19 Ebrill	Dydd Iau 20 Ebrill
Dydd Iau 20 Ebrill	Dydd Gwener 21 Ebrill
Dydd Gwener 21 Ebrill	Dydd Sadwrn 22 Ebrill

Mae'r calendrau Gwastraff ac Ailgylchu ar-lein ar wefan y Cyngor wedi'u dywio i adlewyrchu'r dyddiadau casglu newydd hyn.

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle

Velindre doctor wins clinical teaching award

DR MARK TAUBERT, a palliative care consultant and clinical director for palliative medicine at Velindre NHS Trust, has won the prestigious BMA Cymru Wales/BMJ Clinical Teacher of the Year Award for 2017.

He picked up the award at The Clinical Teacher of the Year Awards, held at National Museum of Wales on March 29. The award recognises clinical teachers who have excelled in their work, supporting doctors in training and medical students in Wales.

The judges were particularly impressed by the quality of nominees this year and commended Dr Taubert specifically for his teaching style.

In his role as educational supervisor, Mark has given junior colleagues the words, insights and vocabulary to express an aspect of life that we would often rather avoid talking about, but that, at some point, affects us all.

His engaging approach has had a positive impact on his students and ultimately



Award winners at the recent BMA Cymru Wales/BMJ Clinical Teacher of the Year ceremony.

the patients they have gone on to support.

As a clinical teacher, Mark regularly uses modern cultural references as a starting-point for difficult conversations that have significant educational and emotional impacts on others. In January 2016,

Mark spoke about the death of David Bowie to inspire discussions amongst trainees, terminally-ill patients and their relatives, as well as on palliative care ward rounds with senior house officers and registrars, in order to help them all in better understanding the nature

of the illness.

Mark wrote an open letter, which initially acted as a good-bye and 'thank you' note to Bowie, but transformed to include aspects about Mark's own life and those of his patients.

The letter went on to incorporate the aims of palliative care in general, capturing some of the big topics in "end of life" care, including the extent of medical intervention wanted by patients coming to the end of their lives, and the ways trainees would need to conduct difficult conversations on this issue for the benefit of patients themselves.

Mark's letter was retweeted by Duncan Jones, David Bowie's son - his only interaction with the wider world immediately following his father's death.

Dr Philip Banfield, BMA Welsh Council Chair, added: "Dynamic clinical teachers are key to the delivery of high quality training for our doctors throughout their professional careers."

"The quality of clinical teaching in Wales is a clear reason for doctors to make Wales their preferred choice to complete their postgraduate training."

HOLY WEEK SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE VALE

HOLY WEEK Services - Barry and St Athan, Vale of Glamorgan Methodist Circuit:

Friday, April 7 Cadoxton - Easter Craft activities with worship and chocolate for all children and carers at 3.15pm.

Palm Sunday, April 9 - 'The Easter Story' Choir, circuit evening service at Trinity, Penarth 6pm.

Tuesday, April 11 at Crossway - Holy Communion service 2pm.

Barry Uniting Church - Reading through the Gospel

7pm.

Maundy Thursday, April 13 at Cadoxton - Holy Communion 7pm.

St David's - Holy Communion and service of light and darkness at 7.30pm.

Good Friday, April 14 at Tathan Parish Church, St Athan - United Service 12.30pm.

Churches of Barry Walk of Witness, starts at Parade Gardens at 12pm and concludes in King Square at about 1.15pm. (6pm Walk of Witness in Dinas at Twyn.)

10.30am Cadoxton - open for prayer. St David's - open for

prayer and silence between 2pm - 3pm.

Easter Day Sunrise Service: 6am, cliff tops, Penarth. Morning worship with Holy Communion: 9.45am at St David's; 9.45am at Cadoxton; 10am at The Gathering Place, St Athan; 10.30am at Barry Uniting Church (Waterfront) and 10.30am in Dinas; 11am at Crossway; 11am at St John on Barry Island.

For information call Revs P and C Challis on 01446 678730 or Rev P Taylor on 01446 406262.

Vale NFU meeting

DR ALEX REES of the 'Mothers of Africa' charity in the Gambia spoke on how they are facing A high mortality rate in teenage pregnancies - it was a very moving subject.

Ray Evans gave the vote of thanks and **Frances Rees** won the raffle. We next meet on **Wednesday, April 26** at 2pm at the Millennium Centre to see *Sister Act*.

John Sheer will be our speaker on **Tuesday, May 16** in Penllyn village hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

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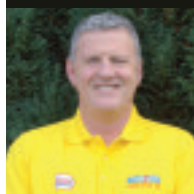
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Secretary of State for Wales and Vale MP tells of Westminster terrorist attack

TWO weeks after the terrorist attack that shook Westminster, Alun Cairns – Secretary of State for Wales and Vale MP – answers some key questions about how the day unfolded.

Where were you before the attack took place?

I had been in a meeting with the Prime Minister, Chancellor and a number of other colleagues in a room beneath the House of Commons chamber. We were scheduled to meet at Downing Street but because we were expecting a number of votes, the meeting had been switched to the Palace of Westminster.

During the course of the meeting, the Division Bell rang.

The Prime Minister adjourned the meeting, with a specific request to return as soon as possible to continue the discussion.

What happened next?

We went upstairs to vote. As we climbed the stairs and went through to the Division Lobby, the Chancellor and I continued to discuss an issue that had been raised in the meeting. This continued as our names were ticked off having voted.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Valeways walks

ON Wednesday, April 12 at 10.30am, the Cosmeston coffee shop strollers meet outside the visitor centre at Cosmeston Country Park.

Also on April 12 at 2.30pm, the Llantwit Major coffee shop strollers meet outside Llantwit Major Town Hall in the car park.

On Thursday, April 13 at 10.30am, 'To the Beach', starting at Llantwit Major railway station car park.

On Sunday, April 16 at 2pm, 'A Spring Walk in the Woods', starting at St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys.

Porthcawl Floral Arrangement Society

AT Awel-y-Mor on April 12 at 7.30pm a flower demonstration will be given by Arnaud Metairie entitled 'From My Shed'.

Doors open at 6.30pm, all warmly welcomed.

In the Division Lobby, there were more than a 100 members or so. This is where MPs will often raise constituency matters with Ministers.

I noticed that the PM was chatting with a colleague and moments later, she had disappeared. I thought nothing of this and assumed that she was keen to return to our meeting, as per her request.

How did you first hear that there had been an attack?

The Chancellor and I continued to make our way back to the meeting room, walking against the flow of people, who were making their way to vote, when a message came through to say that there had been an incident and we should wait.

We had no idea what type of incident had occurred. I initially thought that someone had fallen down the stairs, or maybe that there was a protest outside causing problems for MPs to get through to vote.

We were then told that there had been a stabbing and that gun shots had been heard.

This naturally changed the atmosphere. We immediately returned to the meeting room to gather our papers and notes, when the official advised us that the meeting was abandoned and that the PM would want to call a 'Cobra' meeting.

Our over-riding concern was for the welfare of anyone involved and for the safety and security of the building.

I was also concerned that the news would worry my family; I sent a text immediately to advise them that I was safe. Thankfully, this was so early in the incident, this was the first notice they received.

Where did you go then?

I returned to the Division Lobby level, where news hadn't by then permeated through to all members. The vote was still live, with hundreds of MPs continuing to make their way to the lobby. Some went in to the chamber to hear the result ahead of the next vote and others waited around the corridor.

I decided to make my way to my office, which is close by. I wanted to watch the news to see what was happening. My office window overlooks the site of the attack and it is from this position I realised the extent of the attack. I went cold.

The ambulance had arrived and I saw the to-ing

and fro-ing of the police, the public and emergency services directly outside my office window. A helicopter landed in Parliament Square and the scale of the response highlighted how serious the incident was.

The television news then started to report what was happening.

What were you able to do in the hours that followed?

At this moment, a message came over the internal speaker system instructing us to stay where we were and that the building was 'locked down'. The television reported that the Chamber had been locked too.

I was also worried for staff members in their offices elsewhere. They were later moved to another building.

I waited in my office for five hours. Shortly after being told not to move, armed police entered the corridor seeking to escort a cabinet colleague to a meeting because they were part of the response effort.

MPs poked their heads cautiously though to the corridor. This gave reassurance that there were others around.

Many of us gathered in each other's offices to try to gain a better understanding of what was happening.

We noted dogs searching the building, presumably in case an attacker remained in the building.

Five hours later, we were then permitted to leave.

What were your feelings as details of the attack emerged?

My first thoughts were for those directly involved. We all know the police officers personally. We chat every day as we pass through security. At that time, we didn't know who the victim was. There was a subdued atmosphere and a great deal of sadness.

I then rushed to catch the train to return home to the Vale. I had never been so grateful to arrive home safely, but was still thinking of those who had been involved.

It is also worth noting that I had arranged for a coach tour to visit Parliament the following day. This went ahead in defiance of the attack and I am

grateful to those from the Vale who continued as planned, while also being understanding of the small number who dropped out.

The atmosphere during this tour was different and very respectful of those who were lost and for those who protect us.

What happens now?

Naturally, there is a full investigation and I don't want to pre-empt any conclusion. The incident reminds us how fragile the relationships between communities are and that we must do all to integrate and to support each other.

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Out & About with The GEM

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA

Library opening hours
THE newly-established Community Library run by volunteers in Dinas Powys has extended the afternoon opening

hours.
The new hours are 10am to 12 noon and 2pm to 4.30pm Monday to Friday, except Thursdays, when the library is closed in the afternoon; Saturday, 10am to 12 noon.

Biomass plant protest
A PEACEFUL protest is being organised by DIAG (Docks Incinerator Action Group) for residents

concerned about the Biomass plant currently under construction on Barry waterfront. This will consume 200 tons of waste wood each day.

Please meet at 12 noon on Saturday, April 8 outside the Civic Offices in Barry. We will then proceed to King Square for the finale.

For more information call Tim Bird on 01446 772614.

Dinas play
THE Dinas Powys Players present *Night Must Fall* at the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys at 7.30pm on April 6, 7 and 8.

Easter cake sale!
FRIENDS of Penarth library are having an Easter cake sale at the library between 10am and 1pm on Saturday, April 8.

Cowbridge U3A
THE next Cowbridge U3A meeting will be a talk entitled 'The Enemy we Killed, my Friend', by Captain David Jones at 2pm on Wednesday, April 12 in Cowbridge Town

Help for scam victims
SCAMS are a big issue for the elderly as they can be targeted over the phone, online, by post or in person. Have you been the victim of a scam and want help reporting it?

Come along to the Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, April 11 from 10am to 12 noon. No appointment necessary; contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Getting online
IF you have hearing loss and would like to be more confident with going online, and using the internet, every Friday morning from 10.30am to 12pm Action on Hearing will be at Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

Help will be given on using the internet, learning to make the most of your smart phone or tablet. Learn about communication apps such as Facetime, Skype, and Facebook.

No appointment is needed. Call 01446 732385 or talk to Chris Lazo on 02920 523129.

Welfare rights
IF you live in the Vale and need advice on benefits, such as pension credits, attendance allowance, or housing benefit, Age Connects Cardiff and Vale run a free welfare rights advice service.

An adviser from Age Connects Cardiff and Vale will be available to help with form filling. A session will be held on Tuesday, April 11 from 9.30am to 11.30am at The Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road Barry.

No appointment needed, just come along. For further information call 01446 732385; home visits can be arranged if needed.

Easter Messy Church
REV Martyn, Rev Lee and the team invite toddlers (with their parents), youngsters and teenagers to the next messy church in the Reading Room, Bonvilston, on Easter Sunday at 2.30pm.

There will be craft activities, an Easter egg hunt and refreshments, including hot cross buns.

A collection for the Vale Foodbank will be made and you are invited to bring an item or two – tinned/dried food, tea bags, instant coffee, jam, biscuits, etc. For further information, call Lee Duffield on 07784 869020.

Gypsy Maker exhibition at Art Central



Billy Kerry's 'All Fur Coat' is set to show visitors the relationship between the artist and his material.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council's Art Central Gallery is hosting an exhibition containing artwork commissioned by the Romani Cultural and Arts Company's (RCAC) Gypsy Maker project.

Billy Kerry's 'All Fur Coat' and Artur Conka's 'Rarebit Please!' are at Art Central in April, with both installations aiming to engage Gypsy Roma Traveller communities with the wider public.

Kerry said: "It's been fantastic, working with the RCAC, who have supported and guided me, while also allowing me to be very free with my work."

Artur Conka is one of the few Romani to have documented his community from behind the lens. Graduating from the University of Derby in photography and film-making, Conka's work has recorded how life in one of the poorest Romani communities in Slovakia has changed since its decline, and has featured in various international publications including Huffington Post, The Independent and Vice Magazine.

The opening takes place between 3pm-4.30pm, with free admission granted Monday to Friday, 9.30am-4.30pm thereafter, and 9.30am-3.30pm on Saturdays.

For more information on Art Central, visit http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/enjoying/arts_and_culture/Art-Central-Gallery.aspx.

Back to the 60s at New Theatre

Chart-topper and '80s icon Sonia will lead a star cast including X-Factor's Niki Evans and Helena Blackman from *How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria* in the first UK tour of *Shout!* that visits Cardiff's New Theatre later in April.

Following the lives of five women in their 20s, 30s and 40s who are all facing tough situations – usually involving love and relationships – they write to Gwendolyn Holmes, an agony aunt working on the magazine *Shout!*, for her help and advice.

Set to a suitably swinging-Sixties soundtrack featuring a host of great songs of the era including 'These



Boots Are Made for Walkin', 'To Sir, With Love', 'Diamonds Are Forever', 'Puppet On A String', 'Those Were The Days' and Lulu's 'Shout!' (which spent 13 weeks riding the charts), the show is soulful, uplifting and infectious, taking you back to the music, fashion and

freedom of Britain's swinging Sixties.

Tickets for Shout! which is on from Tuesday, April 18 to Saturday, April 22, are available from the New Theatre box office on 029 2087 8887 or online at newtheatreccardiff.co.uk. We'll see you there!

TUESDAY 18 — SATURDAY 22 APRIL

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Sunday 12 noon - 4pm.

Toy and train sale is back

THE ever-popular Toy and Train Sale returns to Penarth Leisure Centre this Saturday, April 8, 10.30am to 3pm.

Organiser Chris Dyer told THE GEM: "Our venue at Cogan is ideal for a toy and train sale. It is large, easily accessed from all areas and has Cogan Railway Station virtually next door."

"There will be 120 tables run by more than 50 traders from all over the UK. The show is now firmly established on the national scene and traders travel from as far away as County Durham, East Anglia and Cornwall. It is always fully-booked by stall-

holders well in advance." Traders will be buying as well as selling and exchanging, and will also offer free valuations on a wide range of toy and train related items.

For more information, telephone 01643 702757 or 07966 694579, go to www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

It takes place at Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan, Cardiff, CF64 2NS.

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Welsh Autism petition gathers more support

A PETITION in support of a Welsh Autism charity, Autism Spectrum Connections Cymru, has gained over 100 signatures.

Aled Thomas of Penarth was inspired to launch the petition on learning about the Welsh Government's Autism Strategy which does not include funding this service.

The petition was launched online and quickly gathered support from local people.

One person who has benefited from the charity commented: "This charity is vital in order for me to function and live away from home at university as a person with Asperger's Syndrome."

Another described it "an invaluable and unique service".

Mr Thomas intends to present the petition to the Welsh Assembly Government's Petitions Committee in the hope that they will consider funding the charity.

In October 2016, despite cross-party support, an Autism Bill in the Senedd was voted down by Labour, including by the party's Cabinet Secretaries for health and public health.

Autism Spectrum Connections Cymru is a one stop shop which

provides support for adults with autism in south east Wales.

Things it offers includes social groups, one-on-one support, creative activities, benefit support and help with employment for people who are in work as well as those who are looking for a job.

Mr Thomas said that this has had a significant influence in improving his own life: "I enjoy the extra understanding of my condition here which I don't find is easy to get in the outside world. I have found new hobbies and skills and have had the chance to socialise, make friends and to be understood and accepted for who I am."

Mr Thomas contributed to a recent ITV Wales news report on the topic of living with autism as part of Autism Awareness Week.



Aled Thomas of Penarth

Tuition and learning centre open in Barry

INSPIRED LEARNERS has opened at 161 Holton Road, Barry.

Hayley Rees of Inspired Learners told The GEM: "We provide tuition, support and training to parents, carers and schools."

"We are currently running a parent dyslexia awareness course to 'empower' parents."

"We are going to be offering a parent course focusing on speech and language strategies."

The staff include a speech and language specialist teacher; a dyslexia specialist teacher; and educational psychologists.

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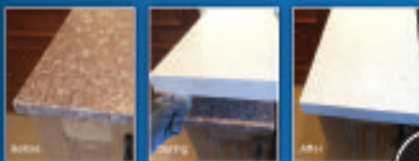
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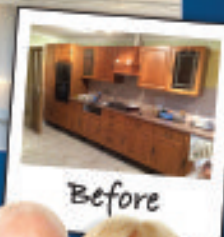
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In Business Update

WHEN TRIMMING TOENAILS IS ONLY PART OF THE JOB

WENDY'S Professional Toenail Cutting Service does what it says on the tin – with a whole lot more thrown in for free!

Yes, your toes will be trimmed by a fully qualified professional, but what is really on offer is companionship from someone who has great experience of looking after the elderly.

After working in the caring professions for many years, Wendy was recently trained by the

NHS and has been calling on clients in the Bridgend, Porthcawl and surrounding area for some time now.

Word of mouth has meant that she has built up a number of satisfied customers.

When she pays a house call, she brings her previous experience to bear, and understands that for many elderly people, the social contact is as important as keeping their toes tidy!

An hour's visit costs £15, and Wendy carries references and her CRB check information with her.

For contact details, see the advert on this page.

April showers?

There are lovely jackets at Samantha B

In this wonderful country we call home, a showerproof jacket is a summer wardrobe essential!

At Samantha B, we have a fantastic selection – from jackets for country walks to smarter city breaks, we have it covered.

Expect to see vibrant lime, pretty pastel, cool khaki, racy red and, of course, navy – we even have a really cleverly designed reversible jacket from Brandtex, two for the price of one!

If you would like a lighter jacket, come and have a look at our paca mac, perfect for travelling.

I am also delighted to report that we have some

fab dresses with sleeves. If you're looking for a day dress or something more dressy, we have them – Pomodoro, Adini, Bianca, Brandtex, Signature and Gina Bacconi.

Whatever your wardrobe need, we have it – lovely summer knits from Olsen, Signature and Emreco, perfectly fitting trousers from Olsen, Bianca, Poppy, Brandtex, perfect jeans and crops or just a plain t-shirt. Call in and see for yourself!

If you would like to attend a charity fashion show, they are on: May 5 at Llancarfan Church; May 11 at Radyr; May 18, Cowbridge Choir; May 19 town twinning, Bridgend; May 30 Brynhill Golf Club. Call us on 01656 658388 for details.

Home Optika makes visits in your area

THIS amazing organisation aims to provide eyecare services and products, including eye tests, to those who struggle to leave the house unaccompanied due to medical, physical or mental health reasons.

They are NHS registered, so free eye tests will apply to those who are entitled to one. A wide selection of NHS frames is available as well as an impressive private range. In fact, there are hundreds of frames in stock to choose from.

Home Optika is also registered with the General Optical Council, College of Optometrists and Association of Optometrists and their expertise and experience are second to none.

For those who would rather not attend a high street practice, they also

offer private eye examinations in the comfort of your home for the entire family.

Why choose Home Optika?

They are friendly, reliable, professional and experienced optometrists. They are based in south Wales and have specialist equipment and resources to provide the best eyecare service in the comfort of your home.

They can arrange a sight test at home for you within a day or two of point of contact.

They source products and services locally, so you won't have to wait for weeks to have your glasses delivered and fitted for you.

Their prices are competitive and they offer a wide range of frames.

Check the website for more information about Home Optika, their services and products: www.homeoptika.com. Or contact them by phoning them on: 02920 213397, or 07510 969414.

'Coastal Lives' to begin this Friday



Andy Bradshaw and Peter Knowles

THE BBC's 'Coastal Lives' TV series will follow the rich and varied lives of those working and living along the Glamorgan coast, including two Penarth residents Andy Bradshaw and Peter Knowles.

Andy and Peter are the joint owners of Hamptons and Shore, as well as being award-winning designers, and winners of Penarth Council's inaugural 'Outstanding Citizens' Award.

The popular pair were filmed over the spring and summer of 2016, culminating in their participation in Penarth's

Downhill Derby where they won 'best dressed kart' and were placed a respectable third in the actual race.

Peter Knowles said: "We were thrilled when the BBC approached us about taking part in 'Glamorgan Coastal Lives' and we feel honoured to be part of the programme. Penarth is such a perfect place to live and work – we absolutely love it here – and it's great to see it being celebrated on the small screen."

The TV series will run for four weeks with the first episode airing on BBC 1 Wales, Friday, April 7 at 7.30pm and then the following three Fridays for episodes 2, 3 and 4.

An expert's advice could avoid dispute

BRENDAN SWEENEY of DAVID PROSSER & Co Solicitors, writes:

It is estimated that 60 per cent of the UK population do not have a Will.

A Will takes effect on your death and is an instruction as to what is to happen to your estate. Probate disputes and challenges to Wills are becoming a growth area, which often leads to substantial costs.

We now live in a world where family relationships are often very complex, and expert advice regarding the drafting of a Will is essential.

A professional advisor can also advise you in relation to inheritance tax, and how you plan to minimise potential liabilities to inheritance tax.

It is important that

people are fully aware of their duties and financial responsibilities when they make a Will, to ensure that they comply with the technicalities that are required to have a valid Will.

The cost of a professionally-drafted Will, after taking advice, is considerably less than the costs that can be incurred if there is a dispute regarding your financial affairs after your death.

Substantial costs can also be saved by taking professional advice early, and putting in place Powers of Attorney – whereby you appoint trusted people to make decisions about your property and financial affairs and health and welfare, if you lose capacity.

The people appointed are made fully aware of their rights and responsibilities.

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Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D977.

● **£2,000: 344511.**

● **The rollover, which now stands at £2,500, was not won this week.**

● **£10: 4 8 5 1 5 4, 307049, 713470, 213521, 970082, 512236, 560839, 149277, 817691, 258442, 576560, 446920, 385916, 465683, 886522, 250590, 297431, 846927, 135, 535839.**

● **£5: 323927, 249014, 417745, 854525, 328612, 695942, 492598, 113591, 140366, 182305.**

123151, 831639, 244466, 496323, 905521, 471083, 667262, 743744, 219238, 356087, 655359, 780454, 215229, 924230, 393834, 719788, 859817, 312957, 814437, 826169, 150427, 684889, 337571, 132040, 147381, 541798, 754345, 752224, 437998, 433146, 817609, 560689, 183452, 297029, 749877, 860409, 838883, 558182, 576685, 783280, 203584, 643789, 691313, 521095, 939212, 829, 1904692, 1774225, 1892420, 5069.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

HEALTH DAY THIS SATURDAY IN THE TOWN HALL

THIS Saturday, April 8, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions are hosting a health day in the town hall from 10am to 1pm.

Spokeswoman Liz Evans explained: "There will be diabetic screening, Welsh Hearts will be attending to help with CPR and defibrillator training.

"The Stroke Association will also be there, along with members of the new Vale Stroke Group to let people know what the group is doing.

"There will be teas and coffees, so please come along."

Liz also pointed out that in the morning, the Lions will be holding a book sale outside Waitrose in the morning. Funds raised will go to a variety of causes including local ones.

THE MEN WHO BUILT BARRY

Retail entrepreneurs of the late 19th century Part III

THE final part of this trilogy is of a young man who came to Barry when his father Ben Evans became Pastor of the Tabernacle Welsh Congregational Church.

Daniel James Evans (c1884) was born in Llangadog, Carmarthenshire and in 1901 was living at 44 Tynewydd Road with four siblings and working as an ironmonger's assistant.

The following year he helped WH Hooper with the opening of a new shop at 81 Holton Road. In one photograph Dan was

LOCAL HISTORIAN LAURIE OWEN CONCLUDES HIS FASCINATING SERIES

shown with a huge stock of hardware and ironmongery and by 1905, with the experience and confidence gained, he had taken over the business at just 22 years of age.

This was the beginning of a long and successful career in the town, with his premises spreading from 81 to 85 Holton Road and eventually with shops across the road, built on a reputation of giving personal service with quality staff.

Over the next few years he expanded his

stock and in 1908 supplied the furniture and carpets to the new Accident and Surgical Hospital in Wyndham Street. Shortly after, the family moved to 36 Woodlands Road and in 1905 his sister Ceridwen died at 14 years of age.

In 1911 Dan married Catherine Mary Richard(s), who coincidentally had been living and working as a draper's assistant for at least 10 years in the large store of DL Evans at 104/6 Holton Road, which was opposite his own premises. They

then had two sons, Gwynfor and Alwyn and daughter Ceridwen.

When the Reverend Ben Evans died in 1918, his eldest son Dan was already secretary of the Grand Eisteddfod and the National Service Campaign.

Dan Evans only began his business adventure half way through the period which this story covers, but such was the impact his business had on those early settlers, including my own grandparents who came from Kent in 1908, it was felt that his early story should be briefly included.

As time went on, he would become very influential in the community, becoming Deputy Mayor in 1939, when the town became a borough.

For many years and for many families, 'Danny's' had been the focal point of Holton Road and towards the end, as we enjoyed our custard slice in the cafeteria, it was sad to see that there were often more staff than customers.

Finally in 2005, this institution closed its doors and left a large hole, which has not been filled.

Barnardo's Big Toddle hopes to raise big money

NURSERIES and playgroups across Wales raised more than £20,000 for Barnardo's, the UK's oldest and largest children's charity, during last year's animal-themed Big Toddle.

Children dressed up animals and took part in a half-mile walk to raise money for vulnerable children. Nurseries and parents are now signing up to take part in this year's Big Toddle, which runs from June 19- 25

and has the theme 'colours'.

The Big Toddle, which began as a one-off event in Porthcawl and has grown to become a national fundraising event, is marking its 20th anniversary this year by teaming up with Teletubbies, who are also celebrating their 20th anniversary.

To find out more and to register to Barnardo's Big Toddle visit www.bigtoddle.org.uk, follow Twitter @BigToddle or Facebook/BigToddle.

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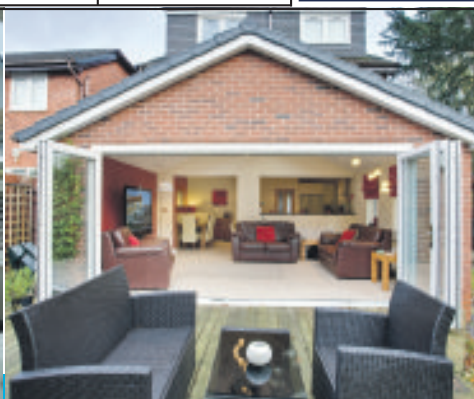
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Once you've got your initial ideas, an experienced conservatory or orangery specialist will work with you to turn these suggestions into a room that fits your lifestyle.

On a practical level, if your home has previously been extended or the drainage needs to be moved, it will take time to get the necessary approvals.

At Securahome we always project manage the approval process and expect local authority planning permission to take at least 10 weeks, with sewer agreements often involving a similar timescale.

All things considered, once you've made the decision to go ahead, it could take three or four months before you can put your feet up and enjoy your new room. However, having invested the time to design, plan and build it properly we think you'll agree that your new conservatory or orangery will be more than worth the wait!



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Public can now submit film of traffic offences

FROM now on, members of the public will be able to submit footage and images of suspected road traffic offences being committed on the roads of south Wales.

Working in partnership with *Go Safe*, *Operation Snap* will provide a safe alternative way to share footage of offences seen by motorists. Road traffic offences targeted as part of the operation will include dangerous driving; driving without due care and attention; contravening solid white lines; mobile phone use; improper control of vehicle; and driving through traffic lights on red.

Assistant Chief Constable Jeremy Vaughan said: "The

operation will enable our communities to help us assist in a key policing priority, to continue to keep the roads of south Wales safe.

"Our work with *Go Safe* is there to complement the service we provide to our communities and, as always, if people need to contact the police and want to talk to us immediately, they can call 101 or 999 in an emergency.

"Our officers will still be policing the roads in our force area 24 hours a day, seven days a week but we know that members of the public are keen to help, and I am pleased that with the support of *Go Safe*, we can provide an easier way to submit footage and images either while travelling as a passenger, or using the footage of 'dash cams' that can be submitted at a later date

when the driver has finished their journey."

Chris Hume, partnership manager, *GoSafe* said: "Working with South Wales Police, *Operation Snap* will allow us to work together and help simplify the way motorists can report motoring offences. By visiting gosafe.org/contact-us/snap members of the public will be asked to complete a contact form; this will allow a roads policing officer to get in touch and review the footage or images captured.

"Once a full review has been carried out, the officer will provide further updates to individuals."

From March 2017 the Fixed Penalty Notice for using a handheld mobile phone while driving is £200 and six points.

In addition any new motorists (driving for less than two years) caught using a device behind the wheel will have their licence revoked meaning they will have to apply for a new provisional, and take and pass both the practical and theory driving test.

Valeways walkers enjoy 'the soaring red kites'

WITH four new walkers joining John's regulars, 13 Valeways walkers set off on a fine spring day from the Plough and Harrow at Monkton.

They crossed fields to arrive at Broughton by the Maltings, once a holiday home for children from the Valleys.

Walking towards West Monkton, red kites were spotted soaring overhead. The group then turned right to cross open farmland to Llan Road. A short walk brought them to a lane by a field full of spring lambs and after walking a few yards down the lane, they turned south to walk alongside Windmill covert and to reach a road.

Crossing straight over, the walkers came to Park Farm and, using the Valeways Millennium Heritage Trail, dropped through a valley to emerge from woodland, opposite St Donat's Church.

Skirting round the grounds of United World College and walking a few yards on the road the

group crossed King George's field, so called in celebration of King George V's silver jubilee.

They carried on using the coast path on the cliff top to eventually arrive at a set of steps which led to the beach at St Donat's Bay.

The sun was shining now and a short stop was made here for coffee before setting off again up through woods and over fields to reach the lighthouses of Nash Point. Thanks to Paul and Judy, choughs were seen flying in the air currents from the cliffs.

It was down into Cwm Marcross and then up the other side to carry on along the coast, crossing several stiles before dropping steeply down into Cwm Nash, by which time everyone was looking forward to reaching the Plough and Harrow for food and drink, so the walk up the valley was fairly quick and refreshments were enjoyed by one and all.

Many thanks to the Plough and Harrow for the hospitality and the use of the car park.

JOHN TREBY
Valeways volunteer walk leader

The Princess Royal to attend Women in Wales Charity event

THE Princess Royal will be guest of honour at the Women in Wales Lunch Reception in the SSE SWALEC Stadium on Friday, April 28 to mark a quarter of a century of the 'Women in Wales Charity' raising money for Save the Children.

This year's guest speaker with close royal connections is the entrepreneur, Cath Kidston.

The 'queen of florals' is being interviewed by Sue Brooks of *Desert*

visit www.womeninwales.org.uk.

said a spokesperson, her "talent and drive transformed roses into riches".

Rachel Thomas, Chair of Women in Wales said: "We are extremely honoured to have The Princess Royal, Patron of Save the Children UK join us for this special occasion which is a sell-out this year with 500 guests, and we hope to raise a record amount for children in Wales."

Proceeds from the 2017 lunch go towards the 'Eat, Sleep, Learn, Play' programme in Wales.

For further details visit www.womeninwales.org.uk.

All aboard the Barry Easter railway train!

JOHN BUXTON, the managing director of the Barry Tourist Railway, has announced that the Barry Tourist Railway will be operating Easter Bunny trains from Barry Island over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend (April 14 to 17). Every child travelling receives a free Lindt chocolate Easter bunny or a soft toy.

John told The GEM: "Our military museum and cafe will be open on all four days too."

"The famous fun fair will be operating as well so there are lots of good reasons to visit Barry Island over the weekend."

"Huge improvements have been made to the visitor facilities at Barry Island over recent years by the local authorities, Henry Danter, Marco's and the Barry Tourist Railway, to name but a few. More special events are also now taking place on the Island, a resort that is definitely on the up and up!"

"Barry Tourist Railway will be operating a 40 minute 'out-and-back' journey from Barry Island Station at 11.35am,

1.10pm, 2.10pm and 3.10pm each day over the weekend, including a guided tour around the railway depot where our vintage trains are maintained and refurbished. So, come along, enjoy the ride and take a look behind the scenes of a working heritage railway," he added.

Fun for all the family and no need to book – just turn up and go.

For more information contact John Buxton, Barry Tourist Railway on 01446 748816; email: john.buxton@cambrrianransport.com; or www.barrytouristrailway.co.uk

AM takes part in 'lifesaving session' at Senedd

VALE AM Jane Hutt took part in an 'interactive lifesaving session' at the Senedd on March 30 and added her backing to a campaign pro-

moting first aid learning in schools.

Ms Hutt, along with other AMs, joined the British Red Cross and young volunteers to learn how to perform cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

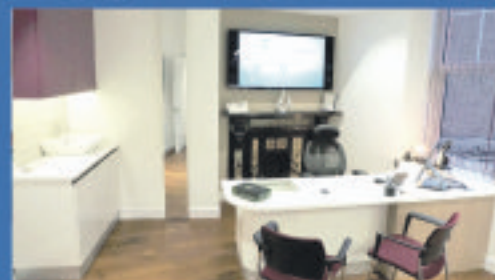
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Vale AM's surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt will hold a surgery on April 8 from 10am – 11am at Barry Citizens Advice Bureau, 119 Broad Street.

No appointment necessary.

Table top sale

THERE will be a table top sale in Peterston-Super-Ely church and community hall on Saturday, April 8 from 10am – 12pm; entry is free. To book a table and further details call Pat on 01446 760267, tables are £5.

This is in addition to the usual village market which is held on the second Saturday of every month from 10am – 12noon, selling homemade cakes, preserves, produce, plants and a very extensive collection of books. Coffee and teas will be served. All proceeds to the improvement and maintenance of the hall.

Toy and train sale

THE Cardiff Toy and Train sale takes place on Saturday, April 8 at 10.30am to 3pm in Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan (CF64 2NS). For further information, call 01643 702757 or 07966 694579; www.chrisdwyerfairs.co.uk.



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For all your carpet needs and ranges to suit all budgets there's no need to look further than Richard Jones Carpets on Broad Street.

HIGH STREET Traders are well known across south Wales for their show-piece community events and every Easter Saturday provide the colour and excitement of the Bonnet Parade.

Mums and dads, grandparents and guardians enjoy bringing along youngsters decked out in their home made bonnets.

Fay Blakeley of High Street Traders told The GEM: "The parade this Easter Saturday, April 15, will begin at 10.45am at Café No 5. Following the normal tradition, the youngsters will parade up and down both sides of High Street."

The traders have chosen to start this year's parade at a different location, Café No 5, to signal their support for one of the great local causes. ValePlus, a Barry-based charity, runs the café, providing experience and skills opportunities for people with learning difficulties.

Fay explained that people of all ages are welcome to take part in the parade.

"The categories will be sought to five, six to 11 and 12 to 100! The winners of each category will win prizes."

Recently, the High Street area was recognised as one of the UK's top five local shopping areas by the Local Data Company for its great independent shop provision.

The traders have an ongoing campaign to promote what's great about the High Street shopping quarter (this includes High Street, Island Road, Market Street and Broad Street). It

is currently providing 101 reasons to visit the area via social media.

Reasons such as the following – it is 100 per cent independent; you can buy everything for a top Sunday roast locally; are you a mother-of-the-bride? then there are four ladies' fashion shops; why not learn a new skill in High Street? Answer: Some businesses provide special classes in particular skills.

Readers can keep up to date with all the news from the shopping area through the Facebook Page 'High Street Shopping Quarter' or via Twitter @HighStShop



Easter wouldn't be Easter on High Street, Barry, without popping in to Tony and the staff in Vic Hopkins & Son to order that special Welsh leg of lamb. Tony told The GEM: "With today's working families in mind we now offer an extensive range of 'Ready Meals' and 'food to go', freshly cooked every day including freshly roasted chickens to order, just give us a call! We've also extended our opening times to 5.30pm Monday to Friday, so you can pop in on the way home from work. We offer an out of hours delivery service Monday to Thursday. Orders placed via our website or Facebook page before 3pm can be delivered when you get home from work. No more having to put up with supermarket meat."

It's only the very best @HopkinsButchers – the five star High Street butcher!

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HAPPY EASTER

from High Street, Broad Street, Island Road and Market Street

FAMILIES AND FRIENDSHIP AT THE HEART OF WEST END BARRY



ABOVE:
Wendy and the staff at Cwtch Coffee can guarantee everyone a warm welcome.



ABOVE:
Fay Blakeley of the gift boutique Homemade Wales on Island Road is modelling a popular 'Barry Island apron' along with a matching tea towel. There are dozens of other delightful Welsh-themed gifts in Homemade Wales to choose from.



LEFT:
Food for Thought has been providing great food and great service on High Street for over 33 years. The business has also supported numerous charities over the years. Leroy (back left) has just volunteered to have a 'back wax' for Ty Hafan. A brave man indeed!

LOCAL traders can happily spend a whole afternoon or even a day browsing the array of shops in the High Street area.

People are lured to Barry's West End due to the fact that independent shops rely on skilful buying to survive and source something 'that little bit different'.

Nicola at Miss Holmes is renowned for her ability to bring the very top names to High Street and she's done it again. This time with *Choconchoc*. The company was featured on TV when master baker Mary Berry visited its premises to have a go at making the high quality sculptural chocolates using a unique layering process.

What's better than a *Choconchoc* Easter present? Nicola stocks a host of top brands like the sparkly and collectable Annie Haak jewellery, and one customer Jane comments on Facebook of Miss Holmes: "My favourite shop. You will always find the perfect gift."

Bryls Boutique stocks the latest ladieswear, coats, jewellery, watches and handbags. Ann, the owner, and her staff always provide customers with a warm welcome and good advice.

One of the most popular brands is the classic Ugg boots, but there are other top names too including Estella Bartlett, French Connection, Great Plains, Joules, Darling, Sandwich, Masai, and Yaya.

If you want more information on *Bryls Boutique*, please go to the Facebook page.

Food for Thought is your

family friendly local deli on High Street.

For many years the Keeble family have been serving up some of the best foods in town.

The staff are keen to support worthwhile causes too, and Leroy has agreed to have his back waxed for charity!

He explained: "I want to do something for Ty Hafan because it is a local charity."

Over 400 people on social media loved the idea.

His dad Nathan has promised there will be 'before' and 'after' pictures for everyone to see!

Just across the road from Food for Thought is *Jade Boutique*. Jane James has owned four shops in Barry's West End over a 32 year period, all of them providing top fashions for the stylish woman.

Jade Boutique is located at 74 High Street after Jane relocated from number 89 two years ago.

The great thing about Jane is that she gets to know all her customers and can advise on the best outfit or item of clothing.

Her spring collection is in full swing and she is well known for her vast range of fascinators.

If you are in search of something quintessentially Welsh or unique, Island Road is a 'must visit'.

Homemade Wales is a haven of unusual and quality gifts for all occasions, including stylish souvenirs of Barry.

Fay Blakeley, the owner explained: "I'm passionate about my home town and believe that gifts from the town should be stylish, innovative and good quality."

"We work with a number of local photographers, creating beautiful prints and cards of the area. We also commission our

own range of handmade textiles celebrating Barry Island, such as aprons, tea towels and cushions.

"Our latest collaboration has seen us license the reproduction of Ordnance Survey maps of the area for use on quality gifts for the home, such as sandwich trays and mugs."

Fay added: "Many of my regular customers bring their visiting family and friends to Homemade Wales, confident that they'll find something different and local to remind them of their visit to the town."

Next door, Rob Linder, who has been repairing and making jewellery for 20 years, has his work area visible at *Bespoke Jewellery Workshop*.

People who are browsing the items in the Island Road showroom can watch Rob and his staff carrying out repairs, and creating new pieces of original jewellery.

He and his wife Irene also own *Brooklind Jewellery* based at the High Street arcade in Cardiff. In fact the Cardiff store recently won an online 'Jeweller of the Year' competition.

The great thing is that if someone has their own design for a special gift, Rob and the staff can bring it to life. Just pop in to Island Road with your idea, or even a drawing, and they will work with you to create an unforgettable gift for a loved-one.

Bespoke Jewellery Workshop will be open on Good Friday, Easter Saturday, but closed on the Sunday and Easter Monday.

For more information call the Barry store on 01446 732017 or the Cardiff one on 02920 232854.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



Bespoke Jewellery Workshop are craftspeople dedicated to creating that unforgettable gift.



Miss Holmes has hundreds of gifts from top names including the 'Choconchoc' range that will make a very special Easter gift.



RIGHT:
Nicola Petersen owner of Miss Holmes, the shop for exclusive gifts.

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HAPPY EASTER

from High Street, Broad Street, Island Road and Market Street

So much on offer in High Street...



LEFT: The spring collection has arrived at Jade Boutique, so pop in and see Jane now.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26
And where can you enjoy a welcome rest during your shopping

tour of Barry West End? Everyone is guaranteed a warm welcome at 'Cwtch

Coffee' which is celebrating its fourth anniversary. It's the perfect place to have a pit-stop from all that shopping or to meet up with a friend for a chin-wag.

Wendy and Leanne have got everything down to a fine art - whether it's all sorts of coffees, lattes and other drinks to breakfasts, paninis and baguettes.

Two weeks ago, the ladies even hosted a special champagne breakfast, well worth getting up for!

The shop has lots of loyal regulars who Wendy and Leanne know by name.

If you visit, you can be guaranteed a warm welcome.

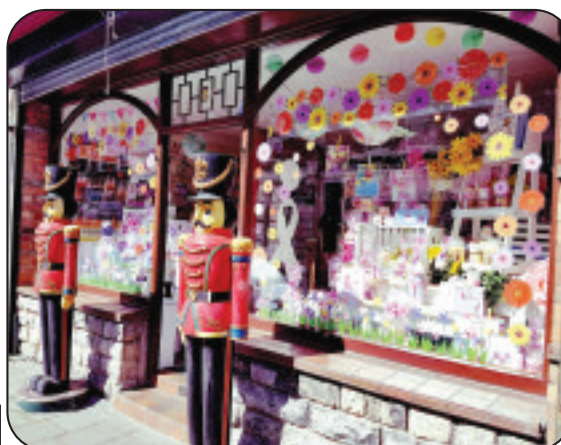
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WELSH HANDCRAFTED GIFTS & HOMEWARES

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Barry CF62 7AR
facebook.com/homemadewales



For MoT, servicing and repairs Griff's Garage on Broad Street is a convenient place to drive in your car, leave it in their hands and go for a browse round the High Street shops. For any questions and to book in, call the staff on 01446 752742.

Celebrate Butterflies anniversary this week



BUTTERFLIES is a unique gift shop that has been situated on the High Street for nine years.

The owner Jodie explained: "We are the official stockist in Barry of Yankee Candles, Goose Creek Candles and Bomb Cosmetics.

"We offer a very high standard of customer service, personal shopping on Facebook and in store.

"We also offer local and UK

delivery and all our items are professionally gift wrapped for free!

"We would like to invite you to join us in celebrating our anniversary and as a 'thank you' we are providing lots of offers and promotions throughout the store on Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8.

"There will also be lots of new stock at the launch."

Jodie and her fab team would like to thank all their many customers for all the support over the years.

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Vale goes mad for tennis festival fun!



VALE Tennis Academy welcomed dozens of families to its free school tennis festivals over the last two weekends at three of its venues across the Vale of Glamorgan: Penarth Lawn Tennis Club (Rectory Road), Llantwit Major Tennis Club (next to the rugby ground), and Barry Community Tennis Club (Millwood Courts).

Following hugely popular taster sessions for over 1,000 children in reception, and years 1 and 2 in a number of schools throughout the county, festivals were held to give families a flavour of tennis coaching programmes and activities in a tennis

club setting. With a variety of on court activities provided by LTA qualified coaches, around 200 children (and their families, if they chose to join in) enjoyed building their physical literacy skills and developing their tennis knowledge and ability, and, courtesy of Tennis Wales and Syner Mini, received a free gift and certificate of participation.

Vale Tennis Academy offers a comprehensive coaching programme for all ages and abilities of player, and each of its venues also has a social programme available for players to get-together more informally both on court and off.

For more information please visit www.valetennisacademy.co.uk or pop along to one of our venues and speak to one of our friendly coaching team.

PM

The Barry and District Ladies Skittle League

LATEST results for the Barry and District Ladies Skittle League are:

First division: SV Gals (V Pycroft, J Richards 29) 289; Allsorts (S Tierney 33) 290; Pila Palas (S Bennett, J Griffiths 31) 317; Cigar Ladies (L James, L Webb, J Smith 31) 311; Family and Friends (G Brown 24) 216; Bobby's Girls (G Toogood 21) 194; Baker's Dozen (S Howe 30) 275; Family Affair (S John 30) 278; Barry Stars (W Phillips 34) 341; Coclot Ladies (M Snelling 36) 313; Special Angels (C Thomas 26) 232; Coppers (J Ward 24) 237.

Second division: Castle Bandits (E Evans 30) 234; Merry Makers (M Payne, J Baker 24) 239; Roller Coasters (S Jones 28) 231; SV Lights (P Snook 23) 209; Cad Con Fillies (C Pearce 26) 223; Castaways (J Byrne 25) 217; After Eights (E Carmichael 32) 196; Fallen Angels (N Edwards 32) 315; Breakaways (C Smith, C Parfitt, J Dawkins 30)

288; Clickies (E Walters 33) 222; Witchill Widows (L Spyrou 35) 300; Airways Angels (E Jones 31) 305.

Third division: Little Devils (L Hughes, S Harry, P Weston, J H Jones 23) 243; Twilights (K Nveit 25) 211; Vixens (N Sheppard 30) 269; Etcetera (J Baker, J Barton 24) 249; Rugby Triers (N Ray 28) 249; Witches (R Pope 28) 239; Hill Billies (I Dimond, G Moorcraft 32) 293; La Belles (S Peacock 35) 302; Challengers (A Richards 36) 327; S V Ladies (C Griffiths 34) 295; Westenders (M Condon 28) 258; Uptown Girls (L Hobbs 28) 252.

Fourth division: Off The Rails (G Griffiths 25) 239; Witchill Wanderers (V Kerslake 28) 154; Persuaders (C Organ, F Organ 24) 225; Liberals (S Boyd 22) 116; Aristocrats (M Atkinson 27) 230; Socialites (J Parker 25k) 187; Living On A Spare (R Britton 30) 293; Boozy Birds (C Connell 30) 265.

'Decline and Fall' proves Welsh film-making is on the up!



Decline and Fall was filmed last year at locations around Wales.

UK Technology Ffilm Centre 35 is 'thrilled' to be among *Decline and Fall's* filming locations.

Wales's flourishing film industry will once again be on display this week when the all-star adaptation of *Decline and Fall* returns to our screens.

Evelyn Waugh's comedy novel is set to appear on BBC One again on Friday night starring comedian Jack Whitehall and *Desperate Housewives* star Eva Longoria.

The TV mini series adapted from the 1928 novel, which also stars actor David Suchet, Tim Pigott-Smith and Nickolas Grace, is being brought to screens thanks to Fortitude producer Matthew Bird and writer James Wood.

In a further sign of confidence in the Welsh film and TV industry, the highly anticipated production was partly filmed just 20 minutes outside Cardiff.

Among its filming locations were Castell Coch, Pinewood's Welsh Studio, Llantwit Major, and Sony UK Technology Centre (UK

TEC) in Pencoed.

Sony UK TEC, which produces thousands of professional HD and 4K broadcast cameras annually, has recently become a beacon for high-profile productions.

This is thanks to the success of its Ffilm Factory 35, which has hosted TV shows including *Dr Who*, American historical drama *Will*, and film thriller *The Chamber*.

The 30,000 sq ft facility boasts easy access to the M4, on-site security 24 hours seven days a week, access via four loading bays, a variety of on-site services including a canteen for catering, space to house unit base and crew parking, a cinema room for screening, and on-site post-production facilities.

Sony UK TEC director of professional services Gerald Kelly said it was "thrilling" for the Pencoed site to consistently be chosen among filming locations for some of the biggest shows of the moment.

He said: "Since launching the Ffilm Factory in 2015 we have been blown away with the incredible response from the British and Welsh film industry."

'Walk of Christian Witness' takes place on Good Friday

PEOPLE from the Churches of Barry will join together on Good Friday for the annual two-mile 'Walk of Christian Witness' through the town.

Father Robert Parrish, Rector of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan, and organiser of the walk, said today: "Everyone, children and adults, is warmly invited to join in at the start at the Parade Gardens at 12 noon or anywhere en route."

The walk is being supported by churches of all denominations in Barry and will include

children from church Sunday schools and youth clubs. Leaving the Parade Gardens at 12 noon, the walk will travel via Broad Street to arrive at King Square in time for a short service for Good Friday at 1.30pm.

The wooden cross, made by Barry College, will be carried in the procession to re-enact Christ's carrying of his cross on the way to his crucifixion.

This is the sixth year of the Barry Walk of Christian Witness, which first began in 2012.

Further information from Father Robert Parrish on 735943.

"The facility has proved to be a huge success and we have been delighted to welcome some of the biggest productions of the moment to Pencoed. "We were extremely excited to host the cast and crew of *Decline and Fall*, which we will all be watching."

"I feel that the continued interest not just in our Ffilm Factory, but for filming in Wales, is an encouraging sign for the industry and we are thrilled to be a part of its success."

A den of iniquity at local friendship club?

IT was nice to welcome yet another new member to our Friendship Club for our March meeting.

I hope she didn't think she had come to a 'den of iniquity' when the popular Rummikub and Triominos were put aside and instead it was dominoes and card games (but thankfully no money exchanged hands).

For those who liked the challenge of words, it was 'Up Words'; but from the noise and laughter coming from the games, it was an afternoon of fun for everyone.

Then of course our meeting finished with the usual afternoon tea of homemade sandwiches and cakes.

For our April meeting we will be welcoming John Winton whose talk is entitled 'Have I got Pews for You'.

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of every month when we have a variety of activities, so if you or someone you know would be interested, please call 01656 668446 to find out more.

PAT SMITH (Leader)

Bridgend Town Twinning group 'is still looking to the future'

BRIDGEND Town Twinning Committee has now become an autonomous self-governing body to be known as Bridgend Town Twinning Association.

A spokesman said: "The aim of the association is to continue its successful links with its two European twin towns, Villenave d'Ornon in France and Langenau in Germany, and its Friendship Link with Hechtel-Eksel in Belgium."

"At the Annual General Meeting on March 24 a few new positions were filled in administrative roles. The former committee would like to thank Mrs Carol James for the years of service she has given this organisation as a faithful and trusted chairperson, always putting the interests of twinning at the top of her list."

"The association is now looking forward with a positive mind-set to continue fulfilling its objectives in friendship, educational, cultural and economic links."

Last week Dawnsyr Penybont visited Villenave d'Ornon in France as part of their celebration for St Patrick's Day. This was a successful visit showcasing Welsh folk dancing, which was fully appreciated and enjoyed by the twin town in France.

On April 22, a group of French students from Villenave d'Ornon will visit Bridgend to experience Welsh education and culture. These students will be hosted by pupils of

Bryntirion and Brynteg Comprehensive schools.

The spokesman explained: "A full week of activities has been planned by the Town Twinning Association for these students, including visits to the Principality Stadium, Big Pit, St Fagan's Museum of Welsh Life and Dan-yr-Ogof caves."

"The association is very grateful to all the families who will be hosting these young people during their stay in Bridgend."

"On June 1 the Tabernacle Music Society, together with members of the Town Twinning Association, travel to Bordeaux to take part in a European Music Festival at Villenave d'Ornon along with musicians from Germany, Italy, Portugal and France."

"While there they will be taking part in two days of concerts and also have the opportunity of sightseeing in the beautiful regions surrounding Bordeaux."

"Two more visits are being arranged for later in the year. The first with our Friendship link town of Hechtel Eksel and the second when Cor Bro Ogwr visit Langenau in Germany, where they will put on a number of concerts."

He added: "To dispel any doubts the residents of Bridgend may have, Bridgend Town Twinning is still an active and forward-thinking organisation who look for your support."

We invite anyone to become a member of our association, attend our meetings and join in our social events."

Free to enter Porthcawl Easter egg hunt

FIVE hundred plastic eggs will be hidden throughout Porthcawl's streets this Saturday, April 8 for an egg-stravagant Easter egg hunt!

Between 11am and 3pm, you can join the search for the coloured eggs that will be placed on John Street, Dock Street, Well Street, Lias Road, Station Hill (New Road), the seafront end of Mary Street, and on the Esplanade between the Grand Pavilion and Cosy Corner.

Each child taking part is asked to 'please only take one egg' - all of which will win a prize. Once found, simply

crack open your egg to find instructions on how to claim. Three lucky hunters will win the top prize of a giant Easter egg!

The free event will also feature music and entertainment, while the Easter bunny and his friends will be out on the streets helping you to hunt down those eggs. Children can also enjoy egg-str fun on the day by taking part in a competition to design their own Easter eggs.

The Porthcawl Easter Egg Hunt is being supported by Bridgend Council, Porthcawl Town Council, and the Porthcawl Chamber of Trade.

Wheatley's Free Fire is well worth getting caught up in!

THERE are few more exciting directors around at the moment than Ben Wheatley.

Ever since his debut *Down Terrace* in 2009, Wheatley has bounced from genre to genre, the only constant being the quality of the films never dipping below superb.

His sixth film, *Free Fire*, sees him tackle the world of action, specifically gun shoot-outs.

The brief synopsis is that the story is set in Boston in 1978, where a meeting in a deserted warehouse between two gangs (comprising among others, Brie Larson, Cillian Murphy, Sharlto Copley, Armie Hammer and Jack Reynor) in an arms deal which goes south, and turns into a shootout where no-one is guaranteed to be walking away...

Given that Ben Wheatley's films have been so tricky to pin down in terms of which genre he's working in, it seemed a case of when, and not if, he would tackle an action film.

Free Fire's simplistic set-up gives him the scope to use his own style within the format, and he certainly succeeds in an exemplary effort that maintains pace throughout and makes for a satisfying and joyous watch.

The plot's heavy lifting takes place, and is done and dusted, within the first 20 minutes or so - a gun deal between the IRA and an arms dealer goes awry when two opposing men discover they have history from the night before.

A shot is fired and all hell breaks loose.

What follows is balletic action (shot through with a gritty realism), laugh-out-loud humour and people getting shot at regular intervals.

If that makes it seem reductive it both is and it isn't - that is indeed what happens for the remainder of the film, but in the hands of a director as skilled as Ben Wheatley, your attention never wavers, caught up in the maelstrom that engulfs the characters as alliances are formed, broken apart and duplicitous dealings take place.

Wheatley co-wrote the script with wife and regular collaborator Amy Jump, and for those who have watched Wheatley's previous films (and if not, why not?) the rich seam of dark humour they mine is ever-present



by GARETH JAMIESON

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here.

In what is essentially a 90-minute Mexican stand-off, the script plays out as one long action scene, the beats carefully laid out allied to characters that we learn just enough about to engage with.

You can imagine each of the actors has a detailed backstory of who their character is and their lives away from the warehouse, but what is cleverly shown on screen is just enough to keep you invested in them, drip feeding you parts of their character as the film progresses.

While all dangerous people, their malevolence is never overly amped up - instead it's played lightly as characters wind each other up and build tensions that will come boiling to the surface once the bullets start flying.

The ensemble are all superb, all deftly realised by some skilled performers, whether they are established

Hollywood stars like Brie Larson, Cillian Murphy and Armie Hammer, or homegrown actors like Michael Smiley, Jack Reynor and Sam Riley.

They all bring something to the table, but stand-out is Sharlto Copley's turn as South African arms dealer Vernon. With his fancy haircut, Savile Row suits and suitably cheesy catchphrase "Watch and Vern", Copley is excellent in a sea of superb performances.

Visually Wheatley conveys the grit and realism of the 1970s, the gun violence feeling realistic rather than stagey - bullets leave their mark, gun shots are as haphazard as you would expect from people clinging desperately to their lives - yet those familiar with his work will recognise his small touches.

More directly accessible than his other films, *Free Fire* is the work of a director confident and assured - as straightforward as it may seem, its simplicity is key in creating a film that is funny, captivating and hugely watchable.

VERDICT - Ben Wheatley's unique take on an American gangster staple, *Free Fire's* 90-minute shootout is sublimely realised. The script is superb in its economy.

Wheatley's direction is efficient and realistic and the performances across the board are superb. *Free Fire* certainly hits its target in one of the best films of the year so far.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Reservoir Dogs* (1992), *High Rise* (2015)

Vernetta at Foxy's



From April 8 to 22 there is an exhibition of work by the artist Vernetta at Foxy's delicatessen in Penarth, offering audiences a central display of three-dimensional cameo/driftwood pieces.

Her second project at the moment is the creation of a book: 'Walking the Waves' containing information and images regarding the piers of Wales. 34 artists/craftspersons have submitted details of their work (and of themselves) with a digital print showing their images, and giving a description of the approach they have used.

Appropriate images and information could still be included and the deadline for this is June 1.

Further information can be obtained by calling Vernetta on 01446 730639. Vernetta O'Connor www.vernetta.co.uk

What's on, and where?

Easter Family Fun with GVS

ALL are welcome for crafts, celebration and tea at Bethel Baptist Church, Barry on Saturday, April 15 from 4pm – 6pm.

Diabetes event

THE next meeting is on Tuesday, April 18 in the Board Room at Llandough Hospital, Penarth from 7.30pm – 9pm.

The speaker will be Ian Jones, optician, who will speak on eye problems associated with diabetes and general eye care advice. Anyone welcome!

Sponsored walk in Sully

THE Saving Sully group are holding a sponsored walk on Sunday, April 30 meeting at the Jubilee Hall at 10.30am, and will commence their walk at 11am.

The marshalled route will be to Cosmeston Lakes and returning via Swanbridge where refreshments will be provided at the Seashore Grill; then along the new coastal footpath back to the Jubilee hall.

The walk is to raise funds to provide defibrillators for Sully, Swanbridge, and Lavernock. Any donations also welcome for this worthwhile

cause.

All ages are welcome to take part, parents with prams, pushchairs and dogs on leads.

Sponsorship forms are available from the Jubilee Hall, The Sully Club Restaurant, Sully post office, The Old School, Sully School, and SSG website.

Donations can also be made to SSG via Paypal at website

www.savingsully.org.uk.

KPC Youth charity golf event

ON Friday, June 23 KPC Youth & Community are holding their annual charity golf day at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl.

Entry for teams of four is £160 per team (but we are offering an 'Early Bird' deal of £140 for any entries/payments received by April 30). Entry includes coffee on arrival, golf fees and a buffet meal following the round of golf.

Sponsorship is also sought for raffle/auction prizes or £50 to sponsor a hole. For team entry forms/more details call Alison on 01656 749219;

kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

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Diamond Repair Centre is a fully operational BMW-qualified accident repair centre catering for all aspects of vehicle paint repairs; and it is 'all insurance companies compliant'.

John added: "We have staff with over 28 years of experience on all makes of vehicles. All our work is undertaken to the highest of standards. We also serve many garages and car sale showrooms within the Vale area with specialist services."

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He then moved to a family-run garage in Dinas Powys which specialised in repairs and restoration of classic Jaguars.

Lee started Aven's Autos two years ago and he explained: "At Aven's Autos, we carry out vehicle repairs of more or less any kind."

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Spring Cowbridge Feature



King Fox opened recently with trusted brands such as Olymp, Santinelli Tailoring, Bruhl, John Smedley and Aquascutum.

Get out and about in Cowbridge now Spring is here – IT'S THE THING TO DO!

THE arrival of blue skies and the approach of Easter are a pretty good sign that Spring is here, and hopefully the cold, grey and damp days of Winter are on the wane.

Suddenly, you have the option of sitting outside with a cold beer or glass of wine, rather than heading indoors to get warm with a hot drink, and it is this change of season that always suits Cowbridge.

It is, above all else, a town to mooch about in. Somewhere to take your time and relax, making sure you don't miss what's new or special – rather than rushing from A to B to get out of the cold.

What's new is always the question to ask in the town. It might be new businesses that have sprung up in recent months – or it might simply be, what's new in shops that you know and trust?

As Cowbridge is still keeping the chain stores at bay, it means that many businesses are run and staffed by locals – locals who make their own decision about new lines, rather than just unpacking what head office has decreed to be the hot thing this year.

Shops in Cowbridge have built up their own



GW St Clears offers everything to make a house into a home.

supply chains, and what's new this season is not being replicated in dozens of other outlets around south Wales.

One of the joys of running your own business is backing your own judgement on what will be popular among your own customers.

It's fair to say that Cowbridge customers and shop owners have a more personal relationship than elsewhere in the retail malls or in the chain store world.

Alison Williams, in *Pebble*, is a good example. She is delighted that she is able to offer her customers the new jewellery range from Blaze Design – a Cowbridge company in fact.

Alison said: "Blaze is not a new name for us. We have stocked their products for some time now, but it is getting to the point where there is

a real buzz, waiting for the Spring/Summer collection."

Key to the Blaze range is sterling silver, hand-made jewellery, using freshwater pearls, crystals and semi-precious stones.

Alison has the latest ranges from some other old favourites too, with Scandinavian cotton knitwear from Odd Molly, and fresh stock from Gant and Hatley.

Cowbridge continues to attract new businesses to the town. A pizza and pasta restaurant is on the way – as is an ice cream parlour by day, which will transform into a cocktail bar at night.

However, one new business that is up and running – since – November of last year – is *King Fox*, a menswear store run by *Leila Thornton*.

For Leila, it is a case of keeping it in the family. Her grandfather

bought the adjoining premises in 1958. At the time, it was a barber's, run by Victor Grubb.

In truth, he didn't know what to do with his new premises, and Leila's grandmother had a few choice words for him about that impulse buy!

However, after a few days, she decided to open a dress shop – Bettina's – and was a fixture in Cowbridge for many years.

She expanded, buying the adjoining premises, and it is from this shop that King Fox trades.

Leila said: "I didn't want to have very high end prices, but the quality is still there – with all garments made in the UK or in Europe."

Business has been good since King Fox opened in November. Trusted brands such as Olymp, Santinelli Tailoring, Bruhl, John Smedley and Aquascutum mean that customers can be assured of good quality – and Leila has her grandmother's genes when it comes to retailing!

Also on the High Street is *GW at St Clears* which has now been open for two-and-a-half years – so it can't be classed as new.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



Blaze Designs jewellery is a popular line in *Pebble* – and the new season's range is now in stock!

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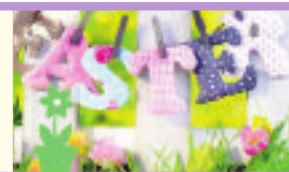
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ThePencilCaseCowbridge



Spring Cowbridge Feature



So many reasons to visit Cowbridge!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

However, it does come under the category of 'slow burner' because its aim is to give just a flavour of the company's showroom in west Wales, where they have built the business up over 40 years.

A company spokeswoman said: "For nearly 40 years, we have had the privilege of respectfully working and improving our clients' homes."

"Ever since we opened our lifestyle showroom in Cowbridge, we have been able to offer our product portfolio and services to the Vale and surrounding counties."

"We offer a turnkey installation service, where our dedicated team of tradespeople take care of absolutely everything from top to bottom, whether for a new kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, study, hallway or living room"

Find out more about their hassle-free services at www.gwofstclears.co.uk or telephone 01446 771581.

Of course, choosing somewhere to go for a day out isn't all about shopping, and Cowbridge is bubbling over with choice if you just want to take in pleasant surroundings, and then pause for a coffee, light lunch, bar meal or to eat out in style.

These days, a visit to the walled Physic Garden is a must. It's an object lesson on what can be achieved by a group of motivated volunteers who care about their town.

What was an overgrown garden – neglected for many years – is now a peaceful idyll that has a fascinating educational aspect as well.

The neighbouring Old Hall Gardens have been



Kate Thomas and Holly Howells at Sylvia Williams Chemists.

cared for by more volunteers, and further along, the livestock market is still active every Tuesday. On other days, it is very useful as a free parking area.

At Sylvia Williams Chemists in the High Street, pharmacist Kate Thomas has just introduced three prestigious Continental skincare brands.

She said: "We want to make this pharmacy a centre of excellence for skincare."

The products are specialised and, as a result, staff have been given detailed training. Holly Howells is the shop's skincare expert, and she



The Pencil Case supplies Scouting and Guiding uniforms, too.

explained: "We have La Roche Posay and Vichy from France, and the Swiss company Mavala as well."

"La Roche Posay products are formulated to tackle rosacea, eczema, teenage acne and cracked skin, among others. They are conditions that cause a great deal of distress, and La Roche has been working with dermatologists in this field for many years."

"Vichy has a range of make up products and, in particular a foundation, Dermablend, that is designed to hide damaged skin and tattoos, and is very effective."

She continued: "Mavala specialises in creams that moisturise tired skin, and that rejuvenate wrinkles. It's another range that has a strong reputation."

In Eastgate, Sally Stephenson runs the Pencil Case which supplies all things relating to writing – whether for business or pleasure.

It's a treasure trove for youngsters, although grown-ups are well catered for too.

Her Easter table – described by Sally as an alternative to an overload of chocolate, is packed with Easter-themed items, from bonnets to balloons, colouring and sticker books, and Easter cards in English and Welsh.

One product line – twako erasers – are so sought after that she is introducing a loyalty card. The distinctive designs cost just £1 each, and from Easter, 10 stamps on the card will mean the next one is free!

Some Cowbridge traders, of course, are not here every day. Glamorgan Lamb, based in Ystradowen, expect their regular customers to be flocking to the Farmers' Market on Easter Saturday in Arthur John's Car Park.

John Davies, who runs Glamorgan Lamb, explained: "We have an established reputation as the first in Wales to have Spring lambs on sale."

"We plant a root crop in the autumn and when the lambs arrive in January, that diet of roots and mother's milk makes all the difference."



Elephant and Bun: artisanal deli heaven and right on your doorstep.

Glamorgan Lamb do not trade solely at the Farmers' market. They can be contacted on the telephone number shown on their advertisement in this feature.

On Cowbridge High Street, the Elephant & Bun delicatessen is gearing up for Easter with a new range of Welsh artisan beers and ciders that will make any family party go with a swing.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33



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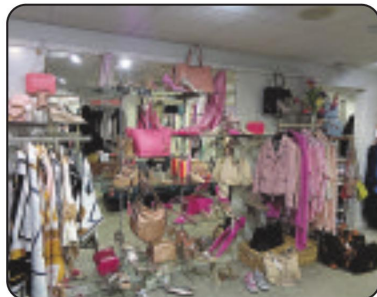
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Spring Cowbridge

SPRING INTO COWBRIDGE!



Jon Ian will guarantee you're in the pink this season.



Fancy spinning a yarn? La Mercerie, in Old Mason's Yard, is the place to go.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

And now is the time to order your quiches, cheeses, salads and cakes for such special events as wedding receptions, christenings, family reunions and farewells.

Don't forget the deli's great range of home made sausage rolls, plus hot-off-the-griddle Welsh cakes as sampled at No 10 Downing Street last month. And Saturdays wouldn't be the same without Hay-on-Wye baker Alex Gooch's beautiful artisan breads and Nata's custard tarts and doughnuts; only available for sale in Cowbridge at the Elephant & Bun Deli.

Across the road from The Bun, is **Jon Ian**, run by **Esther Hitchcock**, which has settled into new and larger premises.

Esther said: "The extra space means that we can display a much bigger selection of designer shoes at affordable prices."

"It's like walking into Spring, with all the colours on show."

"Remember, we have every type of footwear from waterproof boots to shoes and bags for every occasion."

Jean Tait runs La Mercerie, in Old Mason's Yard, and supplies all types of yarn and things connected with knitting. Knitting is a pretty social thing, and a number of groups

meet at Jean's shop to compare notes and enjoy a gossip while they knit.

In fact, in June, Jean is hoping to bring as many knitters as possible from around the area together for a charity event.

She said: "On Saturday, June 10, it will be 'worldwide knitting in public day' and we have decided to get together to support another charity event, organised by the Jo Cox Foundation."

"That charity is putting on community street parties, and we will be knitting bunting to help with the street party decorations."

Merger will take law firms to new heights



Left to right: Glamorgan Law's Richard Beech, JCP Solicitors' Hayley Davies, Glamorgan Law's Peter Davies and JCP Solicitors' Kevin O'Brien.

GLAMORGAN Law, based in The Pavilion on the main street in Cowbridge, is entering an exciting new phase, having announced a forthcoming merger with JCP Solicitors.

With offices across south Wales in Cardiff, Cowbridge, Pontypridd and Caerphilly, Glamorgan Law has a sound reputation for providing a comprehensive range of legal services, while JCP Solicitors is one of the most highly regarded legal businesses in south and west Wales, with established offices in Swansea, Carmarthen and throughout Pembrokeshire.

The coming together of the two businesses, on April 25, 2017, will see JCP Solicitors invest in

Glamorgan Law's existing offices, with all partners and employees of Glamorgan Law currently based at those offices remaining within the merged company.

Glamorgan Law has eight directors and 50 additional members of staff, with Senior Partners Peter Davies and Richard Beech, who is currently based in Cowbridge, taking up business ownership in JCP.

The newly-merged law firm will have a turnover in excess of £10 million and it is projected that this merger will make it one of the top 200 law firms in the UK*.

*Projection based upon the criteria of the Lawyer Magazine's Top 200 list 2016.

Police officers donate £2,000 to special care baby unit in Bridgend



Laura Sutherland, staff nurse, holding three-week-old Nate; PC Ceri Francis; DCI Dinlle Francis; Amanda Dyer, senior staff nurse; PC Rea David and Anthony Hopkins, father of newborn twins Cody and Conor.

OFFICERS and staff at a Bridgend police station have munched through a mound of chocolate and snacks to raise a staggering amount for a local cause.

Police Constables Rea David and Ceri Francis were recently able to hand over £2,000 to the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) at the Princess of Wales Hospital, thanks to colleagues' support for the tuck shop they run at Bridgend Bridewell station.

The money was raised in just 12 months, and staff at the hospital unit plan to put it to good use buying a portable breast pump and equipment to furnish the family room.

PC Rea David said: "We chose the baby unit to benefit from the proceeds of this year's

tuck shop because some of the officers and staff have had their own babies cared for at the SCBU, so they know first-hand the amazing work they do there.

"Myself, PC Francis and DCI Dinlle Francis recently visited the unit to hand over the money, and the team there were delighted."

"It was great for us to meet not only some of the team, but also some of the families who are currently benefiting from their amazing care."

"We'll now be looking to nominate another good cause to benefit from next year's snack breaks. Any non-profit organisations or charities who'd like to be considered should email me at rea.david@south-wales.pnn.police.uk"

Councillor to stand as an independent in local elections

SENIOR Town and former Vale councillor, Anthony Ernest, has confirmed that he is standing as an independent candidate in the Plymouth Ward of Penarth, in the forthcoming council elections for both the Vale and Penarth.



Coun Ernest has been a member of Penarth Town Council for many years, and has a record of election successes on the Vale Council where he was a cabinet member for a decade, holding various responsibilities which included council housing and public buildings, and more recently leisure, tourism and the arts.

Coun Ernest who was born in the Plymouth Ward ('South and West Penarth') said: "I have been asked to put my

name forward for both councils, as we need strong leadership, considerable experience and a real commitment to each of these widely differing roles in Welsh local government, at this time."

"Having been a Vale and town councillor both in power as well as opposition has given me the confidence to once more take on these roles, which are essential in delivering quality services to the people of Penarth and beyond, and I look forward to that challenge once again."

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

'Why not relocate waste bins on Friar's Point'

MY husband and I are regular walkers on Barry Island and have noticed a plethora of new waste bins near the beach hut area; plus we are amused by the nine we counted on top of the newly refurbished shelter, as usually there's not a soul on the top of the shelter and the bins are unused and pristine – as are the

many benches.

It would be sensible to re-site some of these new bins and put them where they are needed on Friar's Point, but it may have something to do with the fact the council bin truck can drive back and forth along the prom without anyone having to physically walk to empty them.

All the bins seem to be driven to, which is why there aren't many on the Point where lots of people are walking and it would be of great benefit to visitors. **ML Healey, Barry.**

'More to pollution than smoke'

IS Coun Moore really so naive to believe that pollution is only caused by "smoke and fumes"?

("Don't spread untruths over new energy plant" – The GEM, March 30.) Perhaps he should look up asbestosis and pneumoconiosis (miner's lung) for a start.

Sarah Jones, Barry.

Friends and Neighbours join the cocktail set!

FRIENDS and Neighbours senior citizen group that meets at Beryl Road Pioneer Hall every month had its spring lunch at The Glamorgan Suite In Barry.

Around 40 members of the group enjoyed a tasty three-course lunch with a welcome cocktail on arrival. The tables were tastefully decorated and the venue was very comfortable.

The students made them very welcome and chatted to them while waiting for their meal. They enjoyed a starter of soup or chicken salad, which was followed by roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes and vegetables.

Dessert followed with

Eton Mess with raspberry coulis. The students were very attentive to the members' needs and nothing was too much trouble.

For many of the members it was their first visit and they said how lovely the experience had been, and that they would go again.

A vote of thanks was given to the hospitality and catering students from Vale College which was well applauded by the members.

Members are now looking forward to their Easter party with Barry Male Voice Choir providing the entertainment.

Call Gay Fifield on 01446 400044 for further information.



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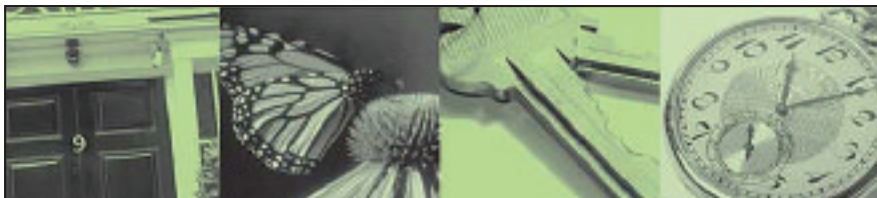
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Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2017/00229/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition and re-instatement of rear stone boundary wall; construction of new 1.5-storey garage with accommodation over, plus rear driveway with 3 parking spaces; stripping of existing roof covering to main house and re-instatement of grade 1 natural slate
Location:/Lleoliad: 77, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Conservation Area/
Ardal Gadwraeth: Cowbridge

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2016/01389/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed alterations and extensions together with new separate access across part of adjacent field; The Lodge, Castle Upon Alun, St Bride's Major
Location:/Lleoliad: Grade II
Listed Building/
Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2017/00222/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Replace external signage like or like including fascia sign, projecting sign, branch nameplate and branch opening hour signs
Location:/Lleoliad: HSBC, 61, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building/
Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2017/00264/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition and re-instatement of rear stone boundary wall; construction of new 1.5-storey garage with accommodation over, plus rear driveway with 3 parking spaces; stripping of existing roof covering to main house and re-instatement of grade 1 natural slate
Location:/Lleoliad: 77, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Listed Building/
Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2017/00084/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Change of Use from C3 to C2. Site to be used for residential care of children and adults with additional needs related to ASD, to include 5 self contained residential units and one shared residential unit
Location:/Lleoliad: Barns at West Aberthaw Farm, Lane - Jct B4265 to West Aberthaw Farm, West Aberthaw
Listed Building/
Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting West Aberthaw Farmhouse which is a Grade II Listed Building.

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2017/00169/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Single storey bedroom and ensuite extension
Location:/Lleoliad: The Walled Garden, Wenvoe
Listed Building/
Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting Former walled kitchen garden wall at Wenvoe Castle- W range' which is a Grade II Listed Building.

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2017/00260/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed residential development comprising 11 affordable dwellings along with associated parking, highway and ancillary works, including a new vehicular access/egress for Holm View Leisure Centre
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the East of Holm View Leisure Centre, Skomer Road, Barry

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2017/00131/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Construction of agricultural building
Location:/Lleoliad: Clark Farm, The Lawns, Cwrt yr Ala Road, Michaelston le Pit

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below,
or via <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

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isod, neu drwy <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 6 April, 2017

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager,
Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT



The Rhoose Lifeguards Nippers in action at Stillwater Championships

**THE British Surf
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Stillwater
Championships
were held in Cardiff
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over the weekend of
March 25/26.**

We were lucky to have this event on our doorstep this year and we went with a strong team of 60.

During the two-day event the Nippers competed together as a team, all egging each other on and encouraging and cheering all the way.

The standard for this year was much higher than previous years and so all our Nippers did a great job, with many coming away with personal bests, some medals and new British records were set!

For the boys Ethan Hole attained a silver in

Manikin and a bronze in the Flipper Race. Well done Ethan.

For the girls, Evie Wong broke the British record in the Manikin tow and then Connie Millar stormed in with two golds in the Flipper and Manikin race.

As if two gold weren't enough, she also set two new British records, an amazing achievement.

We are very pleased to have finished 10th out of 28 clubs and the third-best Welsh club.

We would also like to thank all those that helped over the two days with time keeping, moving the Manikins and boards, keeping the Nippers hydrated and fed and also watching to make sure they didn't escape to the fun pool too often!

VW



3-1 win keeps Barry Town United's title charge on right track

BARRY TOWN UNITED'S challenge for the Welsh League Division One title took another step forward at the weekend, as the championship chasers came from behind to win 3-1 against Ton Pentre at Ynys Park.

Pursuing their eighth consecutive Welsh League victory on the road, Barry's TJ Nagi would hit the crossbar midway through the

first half, but it was the battling Bulldogs who drew first blood, as Phil Clarke shot across goal to beat goalkeeper Mike Lewis in the 26th minute.

Nevertheless, the match in the Rhondda would take a significant turn 10 minutes before half-time, when Ton's Liam Hutchinson was shown a red card for a foul at the edge of the area.

The resulting free-kick saw Barry's Curtis Watkins drill a low effort through the mud and into the bottom

corner and just like that, the visitors found themselves level, with a man advantage to take into the second period.

As it would turn out, the extra man scenario would last merely a matter of minutes, with Barry forward James Dixon soon given his own marching orders for retaliating against goalscorer Clarke.

However, the Town would shrug off this setback in style, putting together the game's defining spell and all but securing the three

points shortly after the hour mark.

First, Nagi worked well to set up Drew Fahiya, who showed great strength to control the ball while holding off a defender, before slotting into the bottom corner and giving Barry a 2-1 lead.

Then, goalscorer turned goal producer, as Fahiya turned his man and cut inside, feeding Barry captain James Saddler who fired his first goal of the season into the roof of the Ton Pentre net.

Closing the game out effectively, Barry's 3-1 victory helped them remain a full five points ahead of second-placed Goytre and six clear of third-placed Haverfordwest County, both of whom won on the weekend.

This Saturday (April 8) meanwhile sees the Town travel to Goytre United in a 2.30pm kick-off, following a recent switch that sees the reverse fixture moved to Jenner Park on Tuesday, April 18 (7.45pm).

Home fixtures with Risca United (on Saturday, April 15) and Ton Pentre (Saturday, April 29) and a testing trip to Cambrian & Clydach Vale (Saturday, April 22) complete the Jenner Park side's title run-in.

Finally, the club was saddened to learn this week of the passing of long-serving goalkeeper Trevor Nott.

A popular figure in the Barry goal in the 1970s and 80s, Trevor made his debut at the similarly-named Bury Town in 1974, racking up 374 appearances in his years at Jenner Park and helping the team to Welsh League Division One and South Wales Senior Cup silverware.

With more than 100 clean sheets across his Town career, Nott was the club's Southern League player of the year in 1976 and featured in the 3-1 win over champions Worcester City the following May, a match that saw Worcester's season-long unbeaten run ended on its final day.

In his second spell with the club, Trevor was a key part of the famous FA Cup run of 1984, featuring in the famous first round match against Reading, after a dramatic second replay win over fierce rivals Merthyr secured their qualification.

A Barry player until 1987 and an important figure in the club's proud goalkeeping tradition, Trevor Nott's contributions to life at Jenner Park, both on and off the field, will live long in the memory.

AC

Penarth Hockey Club reach Welsh Trophy final

WITH three promotions already secured in the GoCrea8 League, Penarth Hockey Club continued to extend its season with a crushing victory in the semi-finals of the Welsh Trophy.

Having eased through the early-season qualifying competition in Swansea, the first XI found Bridgend standing between themselves and a second successive appearance in the Welsh Trophy final.

The obstacle, however, proved to be little more than a mirage as the Bears put on a masterclass at the National Hockey Centre.

Determined that the April 1 date would not make fools of them in an encounter they were always favoured to win, the Vale side quickly found top gear, with Bridgend unable to handle either the speed and intensity of their game.

Penarth should have gone ahead with minutes of the opening whistle, a Ben Croxall aerial being wasted by the unmarked forward, but the opening proved a portent of what was to come as the newly-crowned Conference North champions continued to display the sort of expansive hockey that had led them to back-to-back divisional titles.

Atoning for his early error on the bouncy Sophia Gardens pitch, Phil Lane not only opened the scoring, but also unlocked the floodgates that would see Bridgend quickly

swamped by a glut of goals that left them trailing by five at the interval.

Chris Baker, Laith El-Khatib and Ben Croxall quickly put the game out of reach, before further strikes from Richard Baker, Andy Willemite and Joe Thomas either side of half-time eased Penarth's passage to the final.

Croxall added a second from the spot to complete an 8-0 rout, a scoreline which could have been greater had it not been for a fine display of shot-stopping by the Bridgend goalkeeper.

By contrast, shielded by a defensive cordon marshalled by captain Tom Haran, neither Penarth keeper had a serious save to make, with the Bears able to give both Adam Putt and Simon Comfort a run-out ahead of the final later this month.

Penarth will now take on Cardiff University in the Welsh Trophy final on Sunday, April 30 as they look to complete back-to-back league and cup doubles.

YOUTH NEWS
While Penarth's senior side continues to excel, the youngest members of the club showed that the future is also in safe hands by travelling to Swansea to take part in qualifying for the south Wales under-11 Cup.

In the main competition, arguably the two strongest teams on display met in the opening encounter as Penarth faced off against old rivals Whitchurch.

Typically, the game proved to be a very tight affair, with quality hockey being played throughout. However, despite the Cubs' best efforts, Whitchurch held on to snatch a 1-0 win that would give them the edge for the rest of the afternoon.

Undeterred, Penarth moved on to what was, effectively, a 'must-win' game against a talented Bridgend team.

Rising to the challenge, the boys produced their best performance of the season, running out 3-0 winners to put one hand on a play-off place before taking on a hapless Fishguard side in their final group game.

The west Wales side came to the competition with a distinct lack of competitive games under their belt, and that showed as Penarth won 7-0 in an extremely one-sided game.

The victory ensured that Penarth progressed to the play-off to determine the last qualifier for the south Wales finals later in the month.

Finding themselves ranged against a Llanishen & Caerphilly

side coming from the other side of the draw, the Cubs showed that their level of intensity had not been dimmed by the easy pickings against Fishguard and effectively sealed the game by scoring twice with less than two minutes on the clock.

Two more strikes followed before the final whistle to complete a comfortable 4-0 win and guarantee that they moved through to the next round.

Penarth also fielded a team in the reserve competition, and gave a good account of themselves despite having to play two back-to-back games with a bare seven players and a couple of eight-year olds making their competitive debuts.

Indeed, the side were unfortunate to only draw 0-0 with Gwent in their opening game, having created the better chances and defended strongly throughout, but their efforts ultimately counted against them as they moved onto a tougher game with Whitchurch.

Again, the young squad acquitted themselves brilliantly in the first half, remaining on level terms with their more experienced opposition, but a fourth consecutive half of hockey proved a bridge too far, as Whitchurch's freshness - and substitutes - ensured that they eventually ran out 2-0 winners.

The south Wales youth finals take place in Swansea on Saturday, April 22, with Penarth joining the hosts, Whitchurch and Gwent in the semi-final line-up.

While both the under-11 and first XI squads now have a handful of weeks to prepare for their respective finals, hockey continues for the Penarth club as the veterans side kicks off its summer season by travelling to Cwmbran for the first game in a 'home-and-home' with Gwent.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability.

When the regular season resumes, training will take place on Wednesdays at Stanwell School, with the juniors on the pitch between 6.15pm and 7.15pm and the seniors between 7pm and 8.15pm.

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

CL

Dinas Powys ladies' quest for title gets boost after victory

DINAS POWYS ladies faced a tough away game against a talented young Newport County ladies on Sunday in their quest for their first title.

On a very hot day the visitors started the brightest as Laura Murray fired two early shots wide.

Newport then settled down and came into the match as the youthful team showed plenty of enthusiasm and energy. Dinas struggled to get to grips with the game and the size of the pitch as they looked a shadow of their normal selves.

With 30 minutes on the clock Murray latched on to a through ball and coolly rounded the keeper to break the deadlock. Nao nearly added a brace as she fired two snap shots which went straight to the Newport keeper from five yards.

At the other end Kelly Tuck, Rachel Beare, Alex Allen and Alicia Cox had to be on their toes tracking runners and limiting the home teams chances.

At the start of the second half Demi Bounds thought she had increased the lead but fired over from five yards after Laura Lewis, Murray and Nao had created a fantastic opportunity for the pacy forward.

Taylor Page and Sophie Whittle entered the game and both were straight in the action.

Dinas started the second half much better and were looking to kill the game off early on. Murray rattled the bar before doubling the lead.

Gemma Crowley replaced Murray and the striker who has worked hard on her fitness showed Composure linking up with Nao and Whittle.

Jodi Bowles and Vicki Elison were the finals substitutes used. As the game went into the final third Dinas showed their steel with some solid defending.

Jones and Pattermore both experienced players held the middle well and Bowles injected some muscle.

Elison saved the day late on last week and again her last-ditch defending gave the visitors another clean sheet.

Naomi Wilson collected another clean sheet which is something the defence and Wilson pride themselves on. Dinas have only conceded 12 goals in 16 league games - this shows how organised this defence has become.

This was not a classic performance but the ladies put in a display showing togetherness and at this time of the season results are far more important.

LS

TENNIS TUESDAYS AT LOCAL CLUB!

LAST Tuesday was the 2017 launch of 'Tennis Tuesdays' at Barry Community Tennis Club, and despite the rain showers, spirits weren't dampened and the club welcomed returning ladies along with some newcomers to the weekly social coaching session that has proved a cornerstone of the adult coaching programme at the club since its inception two years ago.

Tennis Tuesdays is an LTA programme for

women with some experience of playing tennis to have the opportunity to get together, get playing, and have fun with some structured but informal coaching tips to help them along. The emphasis is on lots of play and lots of fun. The launch was accompanied by cupcakes and prosecco, which alleviated the soggiess of the weather.

This weekly session, every Tuesday throughout the summer in Romilly Park has enabled the club to develop a ladies team which competes regularly all year round in the south Wales leagues, and has also contributed greatly to the

growing social calendar of the club, with cinema trips and nights out.

The club also offers a men's social night every Wednesday at 6.30pm in Romilly Park, as well as adult beginners sessions at midday on Saturdays and adult social play at 2pm on Mondays, both in Romilly Park.

The coaching programme is provided by qualified coaches from Vale Tennis Academy, and to find out more about any aspect of the club or coaching programme for all ages and abilities please visit www.valetennisacademy.co.uk or www.barryctc.co.uk

- new players always welcome.

WELSH hunt-racing enthusiasts will be flocking to Ystradowen in the beautiful Vale for the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases on Sunday (April 9).

The first race the Hunt Members for which there are nine entries is at 2.2pm and the John Lovell National Men's Open Race over three miles and six furlongs is at 3.45pm.

Of the 14 down to face the starter Roger Wilcox's Patrickton Boru who was beaten just a head by War Path at the Glamorgan a fortnight ago will be some peoples idea of the winner.

However, the 10-year-old bay gelding has also been entered in the Ladies' Open race for which there are a massive 20 entries.

Others of note in the Men's Open include ItchyMel/MScratch, NorthGeorge, Dunraven Royal and, of course, the prolific Rosies Peacock.

Carmen Goldsworthy's recent Brecon winner Captain Camelot has been entered in the Ladies Open race and others here include Buck Mulligan, Hold Court and King Massini.

Keiron Price's recent course winner

Hunt racing in Ystradowen

Ramble On should get backers off to a good start by beating Shes A Gangster and Really Unique in the Hunt Members and three other recent course winners Esstepee, Fraction Man and Ann Scott could line-up for the Restricted race for which there are 16 entries.

Only five entries have been received for the Open Maiden Race over two miles and six furlongs and Dunraven Doc has January Don, Mabassini, Ollies Boy and Stella Massini to beat.

There are 21 down to run in the Open Maiden Race and some racegoers will look no further than Padre Tito who was narrowly beaten by Esstepee last time. Charlie Breckie and Moreece are two others to bear in mind.

VALE RIDERS SUCCESS
Evan David and Byron Moorcroft, both from the Vale, rode winners last weekend.

The much travelled Evan was successful on Andrew Pennock's Mahlers Spirit in the Club Members' Race at West Norfolk and Byron Moorcroft riding Spencer Moon took the Intermediate Race at Clifton On Dunsmore.

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Vale Cricket Club opens new facilities

ON Saturday, April 1, the Vale Cricket Club held a grand opening of their new training facilities.

The new nets, sponsored by the Ford Garage in Bridgend, will serve as a crucial element of the club's training ahead of the upcoming season.

Gareth Andrews, chair of the Vale Cricket Club, is hoping that the facilities will help in the expansion of the club's membership, which currently includes two senior teams as well as 50 junior members between

the ages of nine and 15.

The club is also looking to develop partnerships with schools in and around the area, thus encouraging further youngsters into the sport.

Attending the opening were Gary Pesticcio, managing director of Ford Bridgend, Peter Hybart, chief executive of Cricket Wales, Gareth Andrews, chair of the cricket club, Alun Cairns MP and Jane Hutt AM, as well as the club's members who will be enjoying the new facilities over the coming months.

Mr Cairns said of the occasion: "It was fantastic to see members of the club, of all generations, so happy that their training facilities are being upgraded."

"I have no doubt that the enhancement will not only please local cricket enthusiasts, but also encourage others to take up the sport. Best of luck to the club for the season ahead!"

The club's first fixture of the season will be on the April 15 against Brecon.

The Vale of Glamorgan Football League round-up

ONLY three games were played in the Vale this weekend after the overnight deluge saw numerous games postponed.

In the SWFA Intermediate Cup Semi Final, St Athan went into the last four of the competition with a 4-1 win over Nelson Cavaliers of the Taff Ely & Rhymney League.

Saints now go on to play SWFA Alliance League side Penydarren BC this coming Saturday. The game will be played at Rhydyfelin FC.

In the Premier Division in-form Rhose took full advantage of being the only Prem game played by going top of the league with 7-0 demolition of Masons Moving Group.

Although teams below have games in hand, most notably league favourites Vale United who sit just three points behind Rhose but with a huge six games in hand.

In Division One, second place Barry Belgrade's title challenge took a big hit as they were edged out 3-2 by Cogan. The result leaves leaders Barry Athletic B just one win away from claiming the Division One title.

After a programme of midweek games on Wednesday, on the weekend the games of the day in each division look like being Barry Athletic vs Cowbridge Town in the Premier League, Pumas vs Sully in Division One and BV vs Barry Albion in Division Two.

Also Barry Athletic B travel to play Cardiff Airport B in hope of gaining the one more victory to claim the Division One title.

HD

The Barry and District League tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:
League table: Liberals 57, Wyndham Cons A 57, Cadoxton Cons B 55, 160, Rhose Social 159, Wyndham Cons 152, West End C 53, Penarth Cons A 48, Rhose Moors Boys 146, Social B 48, Penarth End 141, West End Cons B 37, Rhose Runaways 141, Cadoxton Cons 136, Social B 31.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

League table: West End C 96, West End D 89, Sea View B 86, Allsorts 81, King William XII 79.5, Rhoosters 75, Rhose Social C 70.5, Rugby Club 70.5, Barries Boys 70, Rhose Social B 69.5, Slammers 69.5, Liberals C 62.5, Rhose Social A 60, Cambrian Flyers 51, Liberals A 48.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

League table: Harbour B 90, Savoy A 88, Cadoxton Cons Z 68,

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:
League table: Savoy B 72, Liberators 70, Wyndham Cons C 65, Market Street B 65, Harbour A 62, Cadoxton Cons A 61, Market Street C 54, West End B 47, Wyndham Cons D 43, West End A 41, Sully Sports A 40 (* = points deducted).

All league and cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

Vale Resort's huge golfing investment

THE Vale Resort in south Wales has invested more than £400,000 in state-of-the-art golf course and greens equipment as the new golf season gets off with a swing.

The resort, home to two championship golf courses, has purchased 16 new high-tech John Deere cutters and mowers to enhance the condition of both the Wales National Golf Course and the Lake Golf Course. It is hoped the new equipment will give its 550-plus members and thousands of visitors, an even better golfing experience this

year. The resort's head green keeper John Borja said: "This state-of-the-art machinery will undoubtedly improve the condition of both courses and make a difference to the way the game is played on them."

"Our aim, every day, is to ensure our golf courses are presented to the highest standards possible," added Mr Borja. "With the excellent support and after care provided by the John Deere network and its local dealer Frank Sutton Ltd, we look forward to doing so for many years to come."



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14 VAUXHALL Insignia 1.8 SRI 5-Dr In met silver, 30,000 mile family hatch**£9,495**

64 PEUGEOT 2008 EVTi 1.2 Active Automatic In silver, 22,000 miles**£9,495**

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15 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SRI Ecoflex 3-Dr In black, 23,000 miles**£7,495**

64 SUZUKI Swift 1.2 SZL 3-Dr In black with white roof, 19,000 miles, 1 owner**£7,495**

63 CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi Style-E In encre met with white roof, 52,000 mile diesel hatch, free road tax**£7,495**

12 FORD Focus Zetec 'S' 1.6 TDCi 5-Dr In white, 77,000 miles with sat-nav**£7,495**

08 BMW 320i M-Sport Coupe In silver, 70,000 miles with alloys a/c etc**£7,495**

63 RENAULT Megane 1.5 Diesel Coupe 'Knight Edition' 40,000 miles, free road tax**£6,995**

63 FORD Fiesta 1.5 TDCi Zetec 3-Dr In black, 56,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax**£6,995**

62 SKODA Octavia 1.6 TDI SE Auto Estate In silver, 70,000 mile diesel at**£6,995**

61 FORD C-max 1.6 TDCi Titanium In silver, 69,000 miles, diesel practical hatch**£6,995**

59 BMW 116i Sport Automatic 5-Dr In space grey, 61,000 miles, very nice example**£6,995**

64 SUZUKI Swift 1.2 SZ3 3-Dr In white, one owner, 24,000 miles**£6,795**

13 PEUGEOT 208 1.6 Diesel Active E-HDi 5-Dr In silver, 36,000 miles, free road tax**£6,595**

11 SEAT Leon 1.4 TSI FR 5-Dr In white, 57,000 miles, alloys, a/c etc**£6,495**

11 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.6 TDI Bluemotion 5-Dr In silver, 76,000 miles, diesel at**£6,495**

07 NISSAN X-trail 2.0 Diesel Avent T2 In black, 90,000 miles, full leather**£6,495**

64 PEUGEOT 108 Active 3-Dr In red, 23,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax**£6,295**

12 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 VVTi TR 5-Dr Automatic In met-red, 60,000 miles**£5,995**

62 SKODA Rapid SETSI 5-Dr In white, 59,958 miles, very nice example at**£5,995**

61 CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi Style In white with black roof, 73,000 miles, diesel, free road tax**£5,995**

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11 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 5-Dr In met black, 47,000 miles, a/c, alloys etc**£5,495**

10 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.6 TDCi SE 5-Dr In met blue, 74,000 miles, diesel hatch**£5,495**

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13 HYUNDAI i10 Classic 1.2 5-Dr In white, 14,000 miles, 1 owner**£4,995**

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58 NISSAN Qashqai 1.5 DCi Acenta In met black, 84,000 mile diesel at**£4,995**

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11 MAZDA 2 Sport 1.5 5-Dr In spirited green, 74,000 miles, very nice throughout**REDUCED BY £300 TO £4,695**

58 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.9 TDi (105) 5-Dr Match In met grey, 70,000 miles, diesel**£4,695**

58 VOLKSWAGEN Passat 2.0 HDi Sport In black, 85,000 miles, very nice diesel at**£4,695**

60 VAUXHALL Astra 1.7 Diesel Exclusive 5-Dr In silver, 81,000 miles**£4,495**

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60 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Ecoflex Energy 3-Dr In red, 52,000 miles, one owner**£3,995**

60 CITROEN C1 VTR+ 5-Dr In red, 46,000 miles, low insurance and road tax**£3,995**

59 MAZDA 3 Sport 2.0 5-dr In black, sat-nav a/c etc, fantastic value**£3,995**

09 SEAT Ibiza 1.2S 3-Dr In nayara blue, 55,000 miles, low insurance**£3,995**

56 MINI One Convertible In silver, 85,000 miles with pepper pack, a/c, heated seats etc**£3,995**

58 TOTOYA Yaris 1.3 TR 5-Dr In red, 60,000 miles, very nice example**£3,795**

11 RENAULT Clio 1.5 Diesel Expression 3-Dr In met-blue, 53,000 miles, £20 road tax**£3,695**

10 HYUNDAI i10 Comfort 1.2 5-Dr In silver, 57,000 miles, £30 road tax**£3,495**

06 SAAB 93 Linear 2.0 Convertible (150) In black with cream leather, 66,000 miles**£3,495**

57 RENAULT Megane 1.5 DCi Dynamique 5-Dr In silver, 49,000 miles, diesel hatch**£2,695**

06 SUZUKI Swift 1.5 GLX 5-Dr In electric blue, 79,000 mile hatch at**£2,695**



62 CITROEN DS3 D Sport Plus 1.6 THP
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Prizes supplied by sponsors Glamorgan Law of Cowbridge with Geraint Davies, Tosh Taylor and captain Ray Thomas.

Dai conquers all-comers at Ashburnham

ASHBURNHAM Golf Club, an exceptional true links golf course situated overlooking the Lougher estuary towards the Gower peninsular proved a very welcoming venue last Thursday for members of The Glamorgan Farmers Golf Society for their monthly meeting generously sponsored by Cowbridge-based solicitors Glamorgan Law.

Currently ranked as the fifth best course in Wales and which over the years has hosted many prestigious professional and amateur championships this favourite Welsh course of Harry Vardon, the six-times winner of the British Open Championship, was in exceptionally good condition although the many bunkers and narrow fairways proved quite an obstacle for some of the competitors. Society members were particularly pleased to welcome back a resplendent David Harris following his recent 'make-over' and even more pleased when he took the prize for being nearest the pin on the difficult par-3 13th hole. Credit must be given to overall winner Dai John who played quite solidly from tee to green to return a winning score

of 34 stableford points to collect the Walker Cup from sponsor's representative Mr Tosh Taylor. Runner-up with 33 points was David Williams followed by Mark Rees and Bryan Owen who also scored 33 points.

Nearest the pin on the Watts & Morgan sponsored par 3-holes together with David Harris were Julian Golunski, Martyn Edward's and Julian Kelly who was also successful in winning the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge sponsored prize for hitting the longest drive down the selected hole.

Society president Geraint Davies returned home with the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whisky when correctly guessing 29 balls would remain in the adjoining county of Dyfed.

This resulted in £80 being raised for Tenovus Closest to Home Charity. Sincere thanks to the day's sponsor Glamorgan Law Solicitors of Cowbridge for supplying the high quality prizes.

The next meeting of the society is scheduled for Thursday, April 27, when members will be paying their first visit to The Parc Golf club situated between Newport and Cardiff to compete for the NFU Mutual Trophy kindly sponsored by Kelly, Harris and Conlon.

T.McC

Good week for Barry chess club!

THIS has been a good week for the Barry Chess Club with three of our teams in action. We earned two wins and a draw.

The most significant result came on Thursday. At 3pm the Camelots team captain was asked who is in the team for tonight, to which he answered what team? He had overlooked the fact that the Camelots were due to play the Cardiff AJs.

There were some frantic phone calls to find five available players, and the team arrived at the Cardiff YMCA to find no-one knew how to adjust the air conditioning!

This left us playing in sauna like conditions. The boards were so close to one another it was almost a case of breathing in rotation.

Tom Cooke won on time, and this was followed by a victory by Stephen Bonutto and with a further two draws we won 3-2.

We sit in fifth place having earned the magic number of 40.5 points. As St John's College have picked up a penalty we know we have avoided relegation and we still have three games to play.

In Division One, the Bosons took 3.5 points from their home match against the Cardiff Bishops.

There were wins for Steve Cunliffe and Matthew Parry with the other three boards being drawn.

The Bosons remain in fourth place knowing that to avoid relegation they only need a maximum of 2.5 points from their remaining two games.

In Division Three the Quarks travelled to Caerphilly to play the

Rooks.

We managed to return home having shared the spoils, John Ryles and Sam White on the bottom boards winning their matches and Stephen Bonutto on board one getting a draw. We remain in fifth place.

The only thing settled in this division is that the Pontypridd Phoenix will be promoted. Currently in second place are the Cardiff Dragons but they will pick up a penalty regarding the nominated players' game requirement at the end of the season - the actual amount cannot be quantified yet but it will be a minimum of two points.

The promotion and relegation positions may become clearer this week as there are four league games being played. However Nelson have two games still to be rearranged so they may be in a false position.

The Quarks may need 4.5 points to stay up but they have three games to play.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at <http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com>.

PJ

International netballer shows support at Vale tournament



Gwenfo Primary School ran out winners on the day, and were joined by five other Vale schools at the regional finals.

MORE than 180 primary schoolchildren from Vale schools competed in a tournament attended by international netballer Bethan Dyke.

Miss Dyke started playing netball from the age of eight, and watched on from the side-lines at RAF St Athan as young pupils from 18 Vale primary schools competed for the right to attend the regional finals in Cardiff.

Nine volunteer umpires from local secondary schools oversaw over 50 closely-contested matches between rival schools.

Six of the 18 teams would compete in the regional finals on March 30.

Gwenfo ran out as victors, with St David's second, and Cogan finishing third. The other teams to make up the top six were Cadoxton, Bro Morgannwg, and Llangan.

The event was organised by the Vale of Glamorgan Council's sport and play development team, with one council officer commenting: "It was great to see so many schools involved with this event, and the range of abilities competing. All pupils put in a lot of effort, including the volunteer umpires."

Barry Ladies end an excellent season with convincing win

ON a sunny day in Barry, Jenner Park was the perfect setting for the first team's final game in what has been a solid season.

Penybont lined up with a few new and familiar faces having made some recent signings since the teams last met. Having drawn 3-3 with league leaders Caldicot just days earlier, they looked sure to give Barry a hard contested, tight game.

With BTU at full strength for the Seconds v Thirds clash, it was the home side that started the brighter, playing some lovely flowing football on the slick Jenner Park surface.

A couple of early corners were cleared by the resilient Bridgend outfit. With 10 minutes on the clock, captain Stevie Cook whipped in a lovely corner for the lively Naomi Coulson to find the back of the net to give Barry an early confidence boost.

More quality football allowed goal machine Luca Laky to break through and put the hosts 2-0 up. Barry were keeping the ball well, and making it extremely difficult for the away side to get a foothold in the game.

Tracey White, Meg Bailey and captain Cook pulled the strings and it

was another great ball from Cook that set Ellen Phillips through, and she finished with aplomb in the top right hand corner.

The half time score was 3-0 to Barry.

The second half produced very much of the same, and Barry looked very comfortable against a decent outfit that had only lost two league games all season.

Goalkeeper Megan Davies looked as reliable as ever and was destined to add another clean sheet. Emma Thompson, Emily Mortimore and Shanice Donovan looked solid and assured.

Ellie Drew and Coulson were constantly giving the Penybont full backs a torrid time with some superb energy and end product continuing the creativity at Jenner Park.

Strikers Phillips and Laky both added a

second goal each, before Cook then completed the rout by scoring a penalty with the last kick of the game, the final score 6-0.

BTU finished the season second, and two points behind champions Caldicot. It's been a very good season for the senior side. The team will continue training throughout the summer, with plenty of friendlies lined up.

Trials for the first and development team are being held on Sunday, July 2 at Jenner Park from 10am-1pm; all players welcome.

Squad: Megan Davies, Emma Thompson, Ellie Drew, Tracey White, Shanice Donovan, Emily Mortimore, Naomi Coulson, Meg Bailey, Luca Laky, Stevie Cook (c); Ellen Phillips, Hannah Moger, Emily Hill.

Trainer Tim gets a Glimpse of Gold!

GLIMPSE OF GOLD, trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthin landed the opening BetFred Handicap Hurdle at Uttoxeter last Saturday.

Ridden by 3lb claiming jockey Alan Johns, Glimpse Of Gold, which went off the 9-4 favourite in a field of 10, won by one-and-three-quarter lengths from the top-weighted Edward Elgar, partnered by Pembrokeshire's Sean Bowen.

BRIAN LEE

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Strong last quarter sees Barry RFC home against Old Iltydians

A strong final quarter saw Barry RFC home against Old Iltydians in a game in which they looked like losing for long periods as they struggled to match the pace of the home threequarters especially in the first half.

Barry could not have got off to a better start as with just minutes gone O'Sullivan took advantage of a loose ball from a lineout to cross unopposed under the posts giving Barross an easy conversion and a seven point lead.

The lead was however shortlived as the Illts began spreading the ball wide, orchestrated by their outside half who varied his passing to create worrying gaps in the Barry defence.

Moving the ball from their home 22, slick passing saw them create the necessary space to cross for a converted try and bring the scores level.

The warning signs were there that any loose kicking would spell danger on the counter and unfortunately the message didn't get through as Barry continued to put themselves under pressure and with more accuracy and a less effective defence they could not have complained had they gone behind.

As it was Barry were to be the next to score as

an infringement at the breakdown gave Barross the penalty chance, one which he didn't turn down.

Barry still played into the hands of the Illts' backs as once again they countered from a poor clearance with their pace taking them clear of the defence to cross for a second try which went unconverted. To add to Barry's woes they lost Hadfield to injury being replaced by Myles.

The game continued in the same vein with Barry spending most of the game in defence but still managing to keep the line intact helped by some poor decision making by the home side as they spurned more scoring opportunities.

It was only in the final minutes of the half that Barry put a meaningful attack together, which, had the final ball gone to hand, would have seen them take a half time lead rather than end it only two points adrift.

The home side must have wondered how they weren't well in front such had been their territorial dominance in the first 40 minutes.

Barry needed a tactical rethink at half-time but suffered an early setback when a chip ahead caught the defence out of position, but fortunately Ryan managed to save the day at the cost of a scrum to the home side.

The scrummaging in the game to that point had not seemed to have caused any concern for the referee, but for some reason as the Illts applied



Pictures by Judith Dutton.



the pressure he saw fit to penalise Barry by awarding a penalty try for what seemed to be the first offence, a decision which took them clear at 19-10.

Following this score Barry took the opportunity to ring the changes bringing on E Scott and B White for Provis and Bussittill in the backs, and Such for Oaten up front.

The momentum suddenly changed as Barry began to keep the ball in hand and make inroads into the home defence.

A break by White saw the game move into the home 22 where swift recycling saw Barross find some space to put Evans over for a well-worked try. With a successful conversion from Barross, Barry were only two points adrift.

The try obviously gave Barry some confidence and for the first time it was the Illts

having to defend as a series of attacks threatened their line.

With the reshaped pack getting on top in the tight Barry were enjoying the best period of the game, and it was no surprise when Barry drove at the lineout to finally spread the ball for Barross to find himself in space to cross for a try wide out, and the same player added to the score with a fine conversion to take them into the lead for the first time since the fourth minute of the match.

Now it was all Barry as they earned a penalty for Barross to stretch the lead to eight points.

The Illts were trying everything to get back in the game still attacking where possible, but unfortunately for them the final pass to the wing on one occasion was intercepted by Ryan, who raced 60 metres to touch down in the corner which went unconverted, but

Barry into a winning lead of 32 points to 19.

This proved to be the last move as the final whistle went and Barry had a bonus point win which had looked unlikely for more than threequarters of the game.

Still a win is a win but it would be good to see the team perform as well for 80 minutes as they did in this game for 20 minutes.

They have the talent and ability to achieve this but sometimes appear to be tactically naive, the effect of this just puts them under more pressure than they need to be.

This Saturday Barry will be at home to Llanishen in a league fixture, kick off 2.30pm.

The winning lottery numbers for last week were 01, 03, 07 and 15, which went unclaimed, making this week's jackpot £4,250.

AJ



Local kyokushin instructors set to make history

ON April 12, Barry Kyokushin Karate Club students will be sitting in anticipation as their chief instructor Senpai Phill Sedgmond and assistant instructor Rhian Evans set off for the biggest challenge of their martial arts career.

These two high-level martial artists are heading off to Japan to attend the World Championships and international summer camp.

At these events, Rhian, who currently holds seven national titles in Kata, is competing in the World Friendship Tournament in Kata, a worldwide championship event only held in Japan.

Rhian has been selected to represent Great Britain at this event by Shihan Paul Greenway 5th Dan, Branch Chief of Wales and was supported by Great Britain chief instructor Shihan Jose Claronino 8th Dan.

Rhian will be the first female in the history of Wales Kyokushin to represent Great Britain at the World Championships.

Senpai Phill will be at the tournament in an official capacity, as he needs to sit an exam to become an international judge, which will be (hopefully) gained at the tournament that Rhian is competing in, but it's at the international camp that Senpai Phill will be really tested.

The camp is located at the Mitsumine Shrine deep in the mountains of oku-chichibu located on top of mount Mitsumine. Widely regarded as one of Japan's most beautiful shrines, it was constructed in 1661 and was highly respected by the Samurai.

Every year several camps are held at Mitsumine, severe testing of endurance, techniques, fighting spirit and kata are tested at these camps. Senpai Phill hopes to attend this camp to be graded to 3rd Dan Black belt.

Senpai Phill will be the first individual in the UK to achieve this grade in Japan, but this will also make him only the second individual in the history of Barry Kyokushin (almost 40 years) to achieve the 3rd Dan Black Belt grade, emulating Barry Kyokushin's former chief instructor Sensei Richard Males.

The pair have been training very hard towards this event and club member and close friends of the pair have been supporting them with training and financial help.

The club held a fundraiser, a Just Giving page was created and they

managed to raise £1,700 to help support them and get them to this event.

Rhian said: "Many years ago, someone once told me about the opportunity to go to Japan and I instantly thought that won't happen for me, but here we are and although I'm very excited about this it's also very terrifying, but I'm just going to go and give it my best."

"Training for it has been tough, but I have a great instructor and a great bunch of students around me who have supported me wholeheartedly - I genuinely can't thank everybody enough for all their kind donations and generosity to help me."

Senpai Phill said: "It's been a joy to teach Rhian for this, I'm very excited for her and it's a huge milestone for myself, it's a big honour to have one of my students selected to represent Great Britain at this event."

"My training has been tough for the preparation for 3rd dan - the biggest worry for me is that I'm the first to do this grade in Japan so nobody can tell me what to expect."

"Prior to this year all 3rd dan applicants could do this great in Great Britain. Its always been a dream of mine to one day go to Japan and train, so I'm fulfilling a 28 year dream and achieving something very special to me."

"The support from Shihan Paul, Shihan Mac Robertson and from my mentor Sensei Richard Males, who still teaches me despite his retirement from Kyokushin, has been excellent."

"I hope I come back with the right results. But also not forgetting the support from my students, without them it would have been a great struggle."

"But more importantly, the support from my wife and children in this, I've spent what seems like endless days training and away from them, I'm very grateful to have such a supportive family."

The club operate out of Castletand Community Centre and have separate adult and junior classes - for more information you can find them on Facebook or go to www.bkcc.co.uk.

Pictured above, left to right are: Shihan Paul Greenway (branch chief of Wales) Rhian Evans (assistant instructor) Senpai Phill Sedgmond (chief instructor) Sensei Richard Males (former chief instructor) with their Team GB tracksuits.

Murch club's open day

MURCH Bowling Club players are looking forward to the start of their bowling season on Saturday, April 15.

If you have ever wondered about outdoor bowls you would be welcome to come along to meet us and take the opportunity to try your hand at bowling.

Our members will confirm that it is a fun, sociable sport with that extra element of exercise which we all need to keep fit.

We invite you to join us on opening day at 2pm, bowls will be provided, just wear flat-soled shoes and you will

be good to go.

We are situated at the end of Sunnycroft Lane Dinas Powys. You will meet some of our existing members who will be happy to discuss with you the merits of the game. It will also give you a chance to enjoy the excellent facilities in our club house.

If you would like more information please feel free to contact any of the following: Graham Russell (treasurer, 02920 513619), Eileen Carryer (secretary, 02920 515568) or Maurice Warman (men's secretary, 02920 512575).

Barrivale Bridge Club results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for March 28:

1st Jane Brook & Kay Dyer 72.22%; 2nd Peter Millar & Denis Mottram 68.25%; 3rd Mick Green & Mike Close 57.14%. Jane Brook and Kay Dyer also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be

arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternately players, inexperienced or new, may attend on Fridays at 10am at the same address.

DR